

SOLICITATION, OFFER AND AWARD		1. THIS CONTRACT IS A RATED ORDER UNDER DPAS (15 CFR 700)		RATING	PAGE OF PAGES
2. CONTRACT NUMBER	3. SOLICITATION NUMBER	4. TYPE OF SOLICITATION <input type="checkbox"/> SEALED BID (IFB) <input type="checkbox"/> NEGOTIATED (RFP)	5. DATE ISSUED	6. REQUISITION/PURCHASE NUMBER	
7. ISSUED BY		CODE	8. ADDRESS OFFER TO (If other than Item 7)		

NOTE: In sealed bid solicitations "offer" and "offeror" mean "bid" and "bidder".

SOLICITATION

9. Sealed offers in original and _____ copies for furnishing the supplies or services in the Schedule will be received at the place specified in Item 8, or if handcarried, in the depository located in _____ until _____ local time _____ (Hour) _____ (Date)

CAUTION - LATE Submissions, Modifications, and Withdrawals: See Section L, Provision No. 52.214-7 or 52.215-1. All offers are subject to all terms and conditions contained in this solicitation.

10. FOR INFORMATION CALL:	A. NAME	B. TELEPHONE (NO COLLECT CALLS)		C. E-MAIL ADDRESS
		AREA CODE	NUMBER	EXT.

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OFFER (Must be fully completed by offeror)

NOTE: Item 12 does not apply if the solicitation includes the provisions at 52.214-16, Minimum Bid Acceptance Period.

12. In compliance with the above, the undersigned agrees, if this offer is accepted within _____ calendar days (60 calendar days unless a different period is inserted by the offeror) from the date for receipt of offers specified above, to furnish any or all items upon which prices are offered at the price set opposite each item, delivered at the designated point(s), within the time specified in the schedule.

13. DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT <i>(See Section I, Clause No. 52.232-8)</i>	10 CALENDAR DAYS (%)	20 CALENDAR DAYS (%)	30 CALENDAR DAYS (%)	CALENDAR DAYS (%)
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14. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AMENDMENTS <i>(The offeror acknowledges receipt of amendments to the SOLICITATION for offerors and related documents numbered and dated):</i>	AMENDMENT NO.	DATE	AMENDMENT NO.	DATE

15A. NAME AND ADDRESS OF OFFEROR	CODE	FACILITY	16. NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN OFFER <i>(Type or print)</i>		
15B. TELEPHONE NUMBER		15C. CHECK IF REMITTANCE ADDRESS IS DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE - ENTER SUCH ADDRESS IN SCHEDULE. <input type="checkbox"/>	17. SIGNATURE		18. OFFER DATE
AREA CODE	NUMBER				

AWARD (To be completed by Government)

19. ACCEPTED AS TO ITEMS NUMBERED	20. AMOUNT	21. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION			
22. AUTHORITY FOR USING OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION: <input type="checkbox"/> 10 U.S.C. 2304(c)) <input type="checkbox"/> 41 U.S.C. 253(c) ()		23. SUBMIT INVOICES TO ADDRESS SHOWN IN (4 copies unless otherwise specified)		ITEM	
24. ADMINISTERED BY (If other than Item 7)		CODE	25. PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY		CODE
26. NAME OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or print)			27. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		28. AWARD DATE
			<i>(Signature of Contracting Officer)</i>		



SECTION B

SUPPLIES OR SERVICES & PRICES OR COSTS

		Ceilings
FY2010	CLIN 1 - Hardware-Software	\$47,840,000
	CLIN 1A - Engineering Services	\$8,060,000
	Total	\$55,900,000
FY2011	Optional CLIN 2 - Hardware-Software	\$14,220,000
	Optional CLIN 2A - Engineering Services	\$3,380,000
	Total	\$17,600,000
FY2012	Optional CLIN 3 - Hardware-Software	\$13,920,000
	Optional CLIN 3A - Engineering Services	\$3,380,000
	Total	\$17,300,000
FY2013	Optional CLIN 4 - Hardware-Software	\$13,520,000
	Optional CLIN 4A - Engineering Services	\$3,380,000
	Total	\$16,900,000
FY2014	Optional CLIN 5 - Hardware-Software	\$36,440,000
	Optional CLIN 5A - Engineering Services	\$5,460,000
	Total	\$41,900,000
FY2015	Optional CLIN 6 - Hardware-Software	\$36,440,000
	Optional CLIN 6A - Engineering Services	\$5,460,000
	Total	\$41,900,000
FY2016	Optional CLIN 7 - Hardware-Software	\$36,440,000
	Optional CLIN 7A - Engineering Services	\$5,460,000
	Total	\$41,900,000
FY2017	Optional CLIN 8 - Hardware-Software	\$36,440,000
	Optional CLIN 8A - Engineering Services	\$5,460,000
	Total	\$41,900,000
Transition	Optional CLIN 9 - Hardware-Software	\$36,440,000



Optional CLIN 9A - Engineering Services	\$5,460,000
Total	\$41,900,000

GRAND TOTAL	\$317,200,000
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B.1 CONTRACT TYPE (1352.216-70)(MARCH 2000)

This is a an indefinite delivery indefinite quantity contract to provide the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of the Chief Information Officer, with high performance computing and communications requirements as outlined in Section C.

This contract consists of a four (4) year base contract period with a four (4) year option period and a one (1) year transition option. The four (4) year option period, if exercised, will commence upon expiration of the base contract. The one (1) year transition option may be exercised at any time, but may be exercised only once.

Included in this solicitation and resulting contract are indefinite quantity options for engineering services and hardware and software. If exercised, the hardware, software and engineering services will be acquired on a firm fixed price basis.

B.2 CONTRACT VALUE

The total awarded contract value is \$317,200,000.00. Funding in the amount \$50,000.00 is obligated in the initial task order. The Contractor shall not exceed the total amount of funds obligated. No legal liability on the part of the Government for any payment may arise for performance under this contract beyond the not-to-exceed amount of \$317,200,000.00 (inclusive of all options).

B.3 MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNTS (1352.216-72)(MARCH 2000)

During the period specified in the ORDERING clause (FAR 52.216-18), the Government shall place orders totaling a minimum of \$50,000.00. The amount of all orders shall not exceed \$317,200,000.00 (inclusive of all options).



SECTION C**STATEMENT OF WORK
SPECIFICATIONS****STATEMENT OF WORK/SPECIFICATIONS (CAR 1352.211-70)(MARCH 2000)**

The Contractor shall furnish the necessary personnel, material, equipment, services and facilities, except as otherwise specified, to perform the following the Statement of Work/Specifications.

C.1 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this acquisition is to acquire systems integration services to support the Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), High Performance Computing and Communications requirements (HPCC).

C.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this acquisition is to:

C.2.1 Acquire High Performance Computing (HPC) Support Services and Equipment

The acquisition of HPC support services and equipment includes but is not limited to, system integration, system administration, system operations and support for NOAA's Environmental Modeling Program (EMP). HPC includes computational platforms, data storage, networking and systems software.

C.2.2 Advance Target Architecture

Implement and enhance HPC system architecture and system design, reduce system obsolescence, and increase interoperability, compatibility, flexibility and reliability for the continued future evolution of NOAA's high performance computing.

C.2.3 Maximize Acquisition Efficiency and Expediency, Leverage Private Sector Expertise

This acquisition allows NOAA to acquire HPC services efficiently and expeditiously to allow the Government to concentrate on core missions while exploiting private sector expertise in managing state of the art high performance computing.



C.2.4 Advance Environmental Science

This acquisition allows NOAA to enhance the performance and engineering of NOAA user community application software and HPC systems, thereby enabling the advancement of environmental science.

C.3 BACKGROUND

C.3.1 Agency Mission

C.3.1.1 The mission of NOAA, found at www.noaa.gov, is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment and to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nations' economic, social, and environmental needs. NOAA's mission is embodied in four strategic goals:

C.3.1.1.1 Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management;

C.3.1.1.2 Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond;

C.3.1.1.3 Serve society's needs for weather and water information; and

C.3.1.1.4 Support the nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation.

C.3.1.2 In support of NOAA's mission and goals, NOAA conducts research and gathers data about the global oceans, atmosphere, space, and sun, and applies this knowledge to science and services that touch the lives of all Americans.

C.3.1.3 The ability to predict changes in the Earth's environment depends primarily on a diverse set of environmental models, requiring considerable computational resources. These models are developed through research and development (R&D) efforts within NOAA.

C.3.1.4 Computational modeling continues to emerge throughout NOAA and is germane to the daily operation of many of its laboratories. Organizations such as the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL), Climate Diagnostics Center (CDC), Aeronomy Laboratory (AL) and Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) use models for study of atmosphere, ocean, climate, air quality, and ecosystem behavior.

C.3.1.5 NOAA collaborates with other federal agencies in developing models that can be used and reused for the needs of the individual agency's missions. NOAA employs the use of community developed models to improve collaboration to accelerate the transition of these enhancements to operations. The recent emergence of software



frameworks, such as the Earth System Modeling Framework (ESMF), has raised the possibility of having a NOAA-wide, and perhaps Nation-wide, common software architecture for complex numerical forecast systems.

C.3.1.6 Environmental modeling helps NOAA meet its mission in other ways as well. Improvements are being made in flight-level forecasts for commercial aviation in support of the next generation air traffic control system being developed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). NOAA is developing improved air quality models that incorporate the changing chemistry and radiative properties of the atmosphere in severe smog events into weather models. Exploratory work is also going on in very high resolution hurricane models to lay the foundation for further improvements, not just in track forecasts, but also in the rapid intensification that can occur shortly before landfall increasing the destructive power of the hurricane.

C.3.2 Current Technical Environment

NOAA operates three high performance computing subsystems for research and development in support of NOAA's mission which in turn supports over 1,000 users. Together, the following three subsystems comprise NOAA's R&D High Performance Computing System (R&D HPCS).

C.3.2.1 Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) www.gfdl.noaa.gov

The largest of these, at NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), GFDL on the campus of Princeton University in Princeton, NJ, is primarily used for climate modeling. On this system the models for climate change are developed and runs of various climate scenarios are made for the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). This system is critical to understanding the impacts of climate change and developing a national response. The results from this system were used by a large number of NOAA scientists and their collaborators in support of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and they shared in the Nobel Peace prize as a result. By some measures, the IPCC climate model developed and run at GFDL is the best in the world. GFDL also contributes research towards improving hurricane track and intensity prediction by coupling the hurricane prediction model with a full ocean model.

C.3.2.2 National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) www.ncep.noaa.gov

The research and development computer in Gaithersburg, MD is used for weather model research, exploring advanced methods of using satellite data in weather models, and developing improved climate forecasts on seasonal through inter-annual scales, such as El Niño forecasts. One third of the computational time on this supercomputer is devoted to the Climate Test Bed, improving the transition of short term climate forecast research to production. This computer supports NOAA National Weather Service (NWS), NCEP located in Camp Springs, MD.



C.3.2.3 Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL)
www.esrl.noaa.gov/gsd

The research and development computer at NOAA OAR ESRL (which includes the Global Systems Division (GSD)) in Boulder, Colorado serves many users. It serves as a portal for university scientists to work with NOAA in weather model development as part of the joint NOAA-NCAR (NSF-sponsored National Center for Atmospheric Research) Developmental Test bed Center (DTC). This resource helps NOAA leverage the investments of NSF in atmospheric research at universities around the country to improve the nation's weather forecasts. In addition there are many NOAA users (the majority of whom are located in the various ESRL division) supporting a wide variety of projects. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) supports model development as well as some hardware and support acquisitions. In addition to the FAA, NOAA's Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program (HFIP) supports model development and hardware and support acquisitions. The ESRL site supports a number of NOAA's environmental modeling program's (EMP) research efforts including air quality projects, global and regional modeling projects, and a diverse group of small projects.

C.3.2.4 Other Federal Agencies

NOAA also partners with other Federal Agencies to leverage the use of their HPC resources. In particular, collaborations with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and Department of Energy (DOE) have been very beneficial to NOAA. NOAA has worked closely with NASA in developing an atmospheric model, capable of scaling to very high processor counts. This model was tested on one of the largest DOE computers and successfully scaled to over 8,000 processors. NOAA is using the NSF-sponsored Ranger system at the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) to support development of the next generation hurricane modeling system. The work at TACC advanced the FIM Model to allow it to run effectively at 4,800 cores.

C.3.2.4.1 Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)
www.ornl.gov

NOAA and DOE recently reached agreements to have DOE ORNL provide dedicated high performance computing services to NOAA. These advanced high-performance computing services will be used for prototyping critical weather and climate applications in support of the NOAA mission. NOAA plans to leverage ORNL's successful high performance computing activities and effectively utilize ORNL's existing hardware and software support, wide area network and scientific support infrastructures. In this manner, NOAA will leverage DOE investments thereby increasing efficiency and reducing overall costs to the taxpayer.

A detailed description of the current R&D architecture is attached in Appendix A.



C.4 SCOPE

C.4.1 High Performance Computing Services

The Contractor shall at a minimum:

C.4.1.1 Provide balanced high performance computing capabilities and support services (e.g. system administration, computational science support, help desk);

C.4.1.2 Provide the supporting infrastructure, including but not limited to, storage, data management, and data movement; and

C.4.1.3 Provide growth capabilities to augment existing systems and acquire additional large scale high performance computing to support model research.

C.4.2 Target Architecture

NOAA's target HPC architecture is called the Environmental Security Architecture (ESA). This acquisition is designed to support NOAA's efforts to consolidate its large scale processing requirements into fewer systems. This procurement will focus on a portion of the R&D segment of the ESA. This procurement will provide a single large scale computing solution at a new Government facility that supports NCEP, GFDL, and ESRL, while also supporting long-term storage, pre/post processing, visualization, and data analysis needs at NCEP, GFDL, ESRL, and other NOAA locations as necessary. The ESA is documented in the Strategic Plan located at: www.cio.noaa.gov.

NOAA expects to work closely with the Contractor to design this solution based on a set of requirements that NOAA will provide to the Contractor after contract award. NOAA is prepared to entertain alternative configurations and/or implementation schedules designed to reduce risk and/or to better align the solution delivery with industry schedules. This requirement will be awarded as a Task Order against the basic contract.

C.4.3 R&D HPCS Facility

C.4.3.1 The NOAA R&D HPCS subsystems are currently located at three facilities. The facilities at Boulder, CO and Princeton, NJ are Government furnished. The facility at Gaithersburg, MD is leased by an incumbent Contractor. NOAA is currently working with the General Services Administration (GSA) to make facility space available. NOAA's R&D HPCS facility for the target architecture is scheduled for occupancy in 2011.

C.4.3.2 Should impediments to obtaining a Government facility be identified, NOAA may request the Contractor to provide a facility to house the large scale computing system or other HPC resources. Additional funds will be provided to support this effort. NOAA may



decide to mitigate facility schedule risk by working with the Contractor to provide a portion of the large scale system or similar resources at an alternative location or multiple locations until a Government furnished facility becomes available.

C.4.3.3 The Gaithersburg subsystem resides at an IBM facility under a separate contract. The Government anticipates ending this lease not later than the end of FY 2012.

C.4.3.4 The Government facilities at Princeton, NJ and Boulder, CO will be available throughout the life of this contract. GFDL houses a very large tape archive system as well as computing resources used for data handling, analysis and visualization. ESRL houses a small tape archive and computational resources used for modeling, data handling, analysis and visualization. Additional facility information is provided in 4.3 and 6.16.

C.4.3.5 In addition, during the life of the contract, the Government may offer additional facilities to house HPC resources.

C.4.4 Long Term Storage (Tape)

NOAA possesses significant long term storage systems at GFDL and NCEP. Both the GFDL and NCEP subsystems are Sun/StorageTek Powderhorn tape silos, which are schedule to go out of maintenance in December 2010. As of September 2009, there are five silos located at GFDL and three silos located at NCEP. All of these systems shall be replaced although the actual replacement date is negotiable based upon the availability of support beyond December 2010. The Contractor shall be expected to acquire replacement storage resources that meet GFDL and NCEP needs and to manage the transition/data migration from the silos to the new system(s). The Contractor shall work with the Government to design replacement storage systems and to obtain quotes for replacement hardware and consumables. Long term storage assets shall be owned by the Government.

C.4.4.1 NCEP has been successful in its efforts to limit growth of its long term storage requirements to match increased storage capabilities, i.e., NCEP has supported only three silos, approximately 9 petabytes of data, for about 10 years by periodically engaging in 100% data migration to new storage media. The Contractor shall review current and forecast long term storage requirements and, in light of the requirement to replace silos, design and deliver a new storage solution for NCEP.

C.4.4.2 GFDL has greater long term storage requirements than NCEP. GFDL's six silos, approximately 25 petabytes of data, are nearly 100% full but the archive supports several generations of tape media. The Contractor shall review current and forecast long term storage requirements and, in light of the requirement to replace silos, design and deliver a new storage solution for GFDL. Note: GFDL storage requirements are expected to increase by 2x in FY 2010 and to increase by another 4x in FY 2011.



C.4.4.3 Although ESRL has only modest storage requirements at this time, approximately 660 terabytes of data, ESRL recently acquired a Quantum i2000 tape library to meet its near term storage needs. The Contractor shall review current and forecast long term storage requirements, design and deliver a new storage solution for ESRL only if necessary.

C.4.5 Transition Activities

FY 2010 is a transition year for the existing R&D HPCS contract. Much of the current systems and processes will be supported by the incumbent Contractor through 30 September 2010. However, FY 2010 is funded quarterly, and it is possible that systems and/or processes will be modified during the course of the year. The new Contractor shall be required to work with the Government to manage transition activities. At contract award, the Government will provide the Contractor with a statement of work to transition current R&D operations and support services from the incumbent Contractor.

C.5 FUNDING

C.5.1 Cost and Schedule Constraints

This contract will be funded with a combination of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds and non-ARRA funds. Considerable attention has been given to ensure a smooth transition from ARRA funding to annual budget appropriations in the outlying years of the contract.

C.5.2 Funding Profile

This contract consists of a four (4) year base contract period with a four (4) year option period and a one (1) year transition option. The four (4) year option period, if exercised, will commence upon expiration of the base contract. The one (1) year transition option may be exercised at any time, but may be exercised only once. The R&D HPCS acquisition, inclusive of all options, has an estimated total value of \$317,200,000.00. As depicted in the table below, the funding profile for the four (4) year base period (FY2010 through FY2013) is \$61,800,000.00 with a potential growth option of \$45,900,000.00.

The following is the funding profile for this acquisition:

Base Period with Growth Options

	FY2010 CY 1 (2010-2011)	FY2011 CY 2 (2011-2012)	FY2012 CY 3 (2012-2013)	FY2013 CY 4 (2013-2014)	Total
Base Funds	\$0	\$5,900,000	\$5,800,000	\$5,600,000	\$17,300,000



ARRA Funds	\$44,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$44,500,000
Growth Options	\$11,400,000	\$11,700,000	\$11,500,000	\$11,300,000	\$45,900,000
Total	\$55,900,000	\$17,600,000	\$17,300,000	\$16,900,000	\$107,700,000

Fig. C.5.2-1: Funding Profile for R&D HPCS Base

Maximum Base Period: \$107,700,000.00
CY = Calendar Year

Four Year Service Option with Growth Options

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
	CY 5 (2014-2015)	CY 6 (2015-2016)	CY 7 (2016-2017)	CY 8 (2017-2018)	
Annual Service Options (Base Funds)	\$5,600,000	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000	\$22,100,000
Growth Options	\$36,300,000	\$36,400,000	\$36,400,000	\$36,400,000	\$145,500,000
Total	\$41,900,000	\$41,900,000	\$41,900,000	\$41,900,000	\$167,600,000

Fig. C.5.2-2: Funding Profile for R&D HPCS Extended

Total: \$167,600,000.00
CY = Calendar Year

One Year Transition Option with Growth Option

	Total
One Year Transition Option (Base Funds)	\$5,500,000
Growth Option	\$36,400,000
Total	\$41,900,000

Fig. C.5.2-3: Funding Profile for R&D HPCS Transition

Total: \$41,900,000.00

This procurement includes options to augment existing systems and to acquire additional computational resources in the event that new NOAA requirements must be met or NOAA establishes partnerships with other federal agencies to provide HPC resources and additional funding becomes available. Task/Delivery Orders may be issued up to the contract ceiling amount at any time during the life of this contract.



C.6 REQUIREMENTS

C.6.1 Project Management Services

C.6.1.1 Project Manager (PM)

The Contractor shall appoint a PM and shall identify this project manager as key personnel. The project manager shall have PMP certification or obtain such certification within one year of the appointment. At a minimum, the PM shall perform the following duties:

C.6.1.1.1 Integration

all contract elements; and

C.6.1.1.1.1 Ensure integration across

and tactical planning.

C.6.1.1.1.2 Implement contract strategic

Coordination

C.6.1.1.2 Collaboration, Communication, and

contract priorities to the NOAA Integrated Management Team (IMT);

C.6.1.1.2.1 Communicate R&D HPCS and

effectiveness and efficiency; promote teamwork and synergy;

C.6.1.1.2.2 Seek innovative approaches

actively collaborate, communicate, and coordinate among each other and with Government both within the R&D HPCS centers as well as across the R&D HPCS program, including users; and

C.6.1.1.2.3 Ensure all Contractor staff

are timely, thorough, and accurate;

C.6.1.1.2.4 Ensure information exchanges

C.6.1.1.3 Customer Satisfaction

achieve and maintain high customer satisfaction;

C.6.1.1.3.1 Work with Government to

for resolution of customer issues;

C.6.1.1.3.2 Provide an escalation path

principle needs and interests;

C.6.1.1.3.3 Identify the customer's

expectations to avoid surprises; and

C.6.1.1.3.4 Manage the customer's



C.6.1.1.3.5 Solicit feedback and use it constructively to improve customer service.

C.6.1.1.4 Contract Management

C.6.1.1.4.1 Ensure all activities are within scope and comply with contract requirements;

C.6.1.1.4.2 Develop responses to Statements of Work in compliance with NOAA's mission and in the best interest of the Government;

C.6.1.1.4.3 Compete, award, and administer subcontracts;

C.6.1.1.4.4 Ensure performance of the business and administrative aspects of the contract;

C.6.1.1.4.5 Ensure that resources are efficiently and effectively managed and that contract status (including the use of Government furnished resources) is reported to Government representatives as required; and

C.6.1.1.4.6 Develop, implement and manage formal associate Contractor agreements as required.

Management Best Practices

Performance Objectives	Performance Expectation	Method of Surveillance
Proactive leadership team - effective integration and results management	Delivery on proposal initiatives and proposed results; Government provided workload is executed within cost and schedule commitments	Periodic program reviews
Efficient and effective collaboration, communication, and coordination	Timely, accurate direction, tracking and reporting of all contract activities and resources (no surprises)	Periodic status reviews
Quality customer relations	Actionable responses to customer issues are identified and actions assigned in a timely manner; actions are completed by the negotiated deadline	Periodic program reviews



Performance Objectives	Performance Expectation	Method of Surveillance
Thorough contract administration	Timely, accurate, and comprehensive contract actions; no deviations of contract terms and conditions	Review of contract deliverables and periodic program reviews
Effective financial data and reports	Accurate, timely and consistent with generally accepted accounting principles	Review of contract deliverables and periodic program reviews
Responsive staffing	Fully staffed with highly qualified and technically competent personnel	Review of contract deliverables and periodic program reviews
Effective process management	Tasks are delivered through documented and controlled processes	Periodic process and program reviews

Fig. C.6.1.1: Management Best Practices

C.6.1.2 Meetings and Reports

C.6.1.2.1 Project Kickoff Meeting

The Contractor shall schedule and coordinate a Project Kick-Off Meeting at the location determined by the Government upon issuance of a task order. The meeting will provide an introduction between the Contractor personnel and Government personnel who will be involved with the contract. The meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss technical, management, security issues, and reporting procedures. At a minimum, the attendees shall include key Contractor personnel and key Government personnel.

C.6.1.2.2 Weekly Status Meeting

The Contractor shall hold a brief weekly status meeting with the Government management team each Tuesday from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (Eastern Time). Adjustments to this schedule will be made to accommodate Federal holidays. These meetings will generally be teleconferences hosted by the Government. Government hosted video



teleconferences may also be held periodically. The content for these meetings shall be based on the content from the Weekly Status Reports (WSR).

C.6.1.2.2.1 Weekly Status Report (WSR)

The Contractor shall provide a weekly report to the COTR electronically each Monday by noon Eastern Time. The target audience for this report is the Government Integrated Management Team. Adjustments to this schedule will be made to accommodate Federal holidays. This report will be the focus of the weekly meetings. The Government will work with the Contractor to develop and refine the format for the report after contract award.

C.6.1.2.2.1.1 WSR Content

At a minimum, the WSR shall include the following for each center and for the entire system as a whole:

- a. Risks/issues/concerns technical and other programmatic issues;
- b. Out of the ordinary events;
- c. Upcoming plans at each center;
- d. High level summary of change management activity;
- e. System metrics (as appropriate) includes, but is not limited to, dependability, run-time variability, data integrity, system utilization, job wait times, storage system utilization, storage capacity remaining, and data migration status;
- f. System status includes, but is not limited to, HPC system(s), local systems (analysis cluster), storage systems and interconnects;
- g. Security Issues;
- h. Maintenance Report; and
- i. Status of contract management including status of change proposals, payments, and any other contractual issue that may arise.

C.6.1.2.2.1.2 WSR Color

Scheme



The Contractor shall initially use the following color scheme and definitions to provide status reports to the Government on the major areas of the R&D HPCS. The Government may modify the color scheme, definitions and reporting boundaries at its discretion.

WSR Color Scheme

Green	Normal. Contract performance metrics are being met.
Yellow	Contract performance metrics are not being met. A Government approved plan is being implemented to bring the issue back to green.
Red	Contract performance metrics are not being met. A Government approved plan is required to bring the issue back to green.

Fig. C.6.1.2.2.1.2: WSR Color Scheme

The Government will work with the Contractor after contract award to identify those areas of the system that the color codes will be applied to for reporting purposes.

C.6.1.2.3 Quarterly Management Meeting

The Contractor shall hold recurring quarterly management meetings with the Government. The Contractor shall schedule these meetings. These meetings will generally be face-to-face meetings hosted by the Government. Video teleconferences, hosted by the Government, may also be held periodically. The content for this meeting shall be based on the content from the Quarterly Status Reports (QSR).

C.6.1.2.3.1 Quarterly Status Report

(QSR)

The QSR shall be provided to the COTR and Integrated Management Team at least 2 business days prior to the quarterly management meeting. Adjustments to this schedule will be made to accommodate Federal holidays. At a minimum, the QSR shall include:

a. A summary of activities which occurred during the reporting period, by task. Include on-going activities, new activities, activities completed, progress to date, and targeted completion dates;

b. Summary of year to date performance;



-
- expectations;
- c. Highlight outliers both above and below
- d. Discuss significant challenges;
- e. Explain any long-standing risks that have not been addressed;
- f. Identify areas of opportunity where cost savings or efficiencies may be found;
- g. Identify problems and corrective actions taken. Also include issues or concerns and proposed resolutions;
- h. Contractor personnel additions, losses and status. Contractor manpower forecast;
- i. Government actions required;
- j. Schedule. Shows major tasks, milestones, and deliverables; planned and actual start and completion dates for each; and
- k. A summary of key metrics to be identified by the Government. Some sample metrics may include system utilization by allocation, resource trends (such as storage utilization), high level system description, and summary of availability/downtime.

C.6.1.2.4 Annual Executive Meeting

The Contractor shall hold a high-level annual meeting with the Government during the first quarter of each fiscal year at a mutually agreed upon date, time and location. The Contractor shall provide an assessment of the performance of the contract to date. The Contractor shall provide the Government with an analysis of HPC related technologies and the marketplace. The Government will request personnel to attend on an as-needed basis. Hand-outs or presentations for this meeting shall be provided to the COTR and Integrated Management Team three business days before the meeting.

C.6.1.2.5 ARRA Reporting www.recovery.gov

The Contractor shall be required to meet ARRA reporting requirements if ARRA funds are used.

C.6.1.2.6 Special Reports

The Contractor shall promptly respond to requests for special reports regarding management and operations of the HPC systems and on topics related to HPC Support, such as a utilization report. In addition, data calls regarding security are not uncommon and shall be promptly addressed by the Contractor when requested. The



Government will work with the Contractor to further define the details and structure of these reports after contract award.

C.6.1.3 Workforce Requirements

The Contract shall be responsible for maintaining a qualified workforce able to perform the broad spectrum of functions necessary to operate, support, maintain, and improve the R&D HPCS centers.

C.6.1.3.1 Personnel shall be technically qualified and certified as required to operate and maintain any piece of hardware and software that is either Government furnished or that the vendor provides as a part of this contract;

C.6.1.3.2 Maintain staffing records identifying company organizational designations, a brief description of the functions, and the number and types of personnel assigned;

C.6.1.3.3 Provide an organization chart to the Government at contract award and provide updates within 30 calendar days when changes to staffing are made; and

C.6.1.3.4 All resources used for the performance of work under the contract are identified, their roles clearly defined, and their relationship to the remainder of the project established and identified.

C.6.1.4 Organizational Structure

The Contractor shall propose an organizational structure for operation, administration, and maintenance of the services provided under this contract. The organization structure shall include at a minimum, the following key personnel:

- C.6.1.4.1 PM;
- C.6.1.4.2 Contract Manager;
- C.6.1.4.3 Engineering/Architecture Lead;
- C.6.1.4.4 Program Administration Lead;
- C.6.1.4.5 Security Engineer Lead; and
- C.6.1.4.6 Storage Management Lead.

Personnel may serve in more than one capacity. Additional labor categories may be necessary as task requirements are defined. Within the organization structure, the following functions shall be staffed by the Contractor:

- C.6.1.4.7 Customer Service;



Maintenance;

- C.6.1.4.8 Operations, Administration, and
- C.6.1.4.9 Site Management;
- C.6.1.4.10 User Liaison;
- C.6.1.4.11 User Support;
- C.6.1.4.12 Facility support; and
- C.6.1.4.13 Communications tuning expertise for each vendor provided system.

C.6.1.5 Project Management Plan (PMP)

The PMP involves all elements of program management. The principle objective of this element is to ensure proactive and sustained excellence in providing accurate, safe, secure, timely, and efficient contract support to meet the Government's requirements as described in the Statement of Work.

C.6.1.5.1 PMP Components

The PMP shall describe the proposed management approach. At a minimum, the PMP shall address the following:

- C.6.1.5.1.1 Schedule Management;
- C.6.1.5.1.2 Quality Management;
- C.6.1.5.1.3 Process Improvement;
- C.6.1.5.1.3.1 Leverage CMMI best practices as appropriate;
- C.6.1.5.1.4 Communications Management;
- C.6.1.5.1.5 Risk Management;
- C.6.1.5.1.6 Risk Register;
- C.6.1.5.1.7 Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) (Level II);
- C.6.1.5.1.8 Baseline Schedule (including tasks and milestones); and



C.6.1.5.1.9 Cost Management.

C.6.1.5.2 The Contractor shall identify and maintain, within this contract and the PMP document, an up-to-date management structure describing the organization and overall project control and authority for the performance of all work under the contract.

C.6.1.5.3 The Contractor shall document support requirements in a PMP within thirty (30) days after task award. The Government will provide comments within 10 days from receipt of the draft document. The revised PMP shall incorporate Government comments. The Contractor shall deliver the final version of the PMP to the Government within 60 days of task award.

C.6.1.5.4 Updates to the Project Management Plan

The PMP will be an evolving document. The Contractor shall update the PMP at least annually, or more often as directed by the Government, or when processes, WBS, or as a result of other significant changes. The Government expects insight into the Contractor's planning process to gain exposure to the project plan activities that may be impacted by the Government. The Contractor shall work from a Government approved PMP and schedule. The Contractor shall work from the new version of the PMP once approved by the Government.

C.6.2 IT Security Services

C.6.2.1 Security Team

The Government plans to establish a security team that will be responsible for all aspects of the security for this system. The team will consist of members from the Government and the Contractor. The Government will be responsible for all decisions and approvals. The Contractor shall provide a security lead with significant experience in security engineering and auditing pertaining to Federal IT systems with a CISSP certification. The security engineer will need to convey security concepts to technical experts, senior systems administrators, and junior administrators, and operations. Good communication skills and expertise in systems administration, networking, storage, and high performance computing concepts are essential. The security team shall be involved with all potential enhancements. All team members will be required to successfully complete a background investigation as defined by DOC Policy 7.4 for Personnel Screening, which states that NOAA system access shall be limited prior to completion of screening and that user access shall be restricted to the least privilege (e.g., read, write, execute, delete). The Contractor shall also be required to separate critical functions among its staff to ensure system integrity and oversight. The Contractor shall provide additional staff to support Certification & Accreditation (C&A) and other defined security team support requirements.



C.6.2.2 Security Policies

This system will be maintained consistent with Government-wide laws and regulations.

C.6.2.2.1 Office of Management and Budget Policies

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-130 requires all federal agencies to:

C.6.2.2.1.1 Plan for the security of all IT systems throughout their life cycle;

C.6.2.2.1.2 Implement and maintain a program to assure that adequate security is provided for all agency information collected, processed, transmitted, stored, or disseminated in general support systems and major application;

C.6.2.2.1.3 Implement policies, standards, and procedures that are consistent with Government-wide policies, standards, and procedures issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Department of Commerce; and

C.6.2.2.1.4 Establish a minimum set of controls to be included in Federal automated information security programs and assigns Federal agency responsibilities for the security of automated information.

C.6.2.2.2 FISMA Policies

The Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 (FISMA), (HR 2548 E-Government Act, TITLE III - Information Security, SEC. 301. Information Security), addresses the program management and evaluation aspects of IT Security.

C.6.2.2.3 DOC Policies

C.6.2.2.3.1 DOC Manual of Security Policies and Procedures

C.6.2.2.3.2 DOC IT Security Program Policy and Minimum Implementation Standards

C.6.2.2.4 NOAA OCIO Policies and Directives

C.6.2.2.4.1 NOAA 212-1300 IT Security Policy provides specific guidance on Patch Management and Risk Management controls to be used for all NOAA systems.

C.6.2.2.5 Additional Policies

Additional policies are identified at the following websites:



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- C.6.2.2.5.1 www.cio.noaa.gov (NOAA CIO)
- C.6.2.2.5.2 www.csp.noaa.gov (NOAA IT Security Office)
- C.6.2.2.5.3 www.osec.doc.gov/cio/oipr/ITSEC/ITSECDOC1.HTM (DOC IT Security Program Office)
- C.6.2.2.5.4 csrc.nist.gov/policies (NIST Federal Requirements)
- C.6.2.2.5.5 csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/index.html (NIST Guidelines)

C.6.2.3 Compliance

C.6.2.3.1 The Government reserves the right to augment or update the list of applicable documents. The Contractor shall assist the Government in meeting the security requirements for all systems delivered under this contract.

C.6.2.3.2 The Contractor shall comply with all aspects of the Governance and security documentation defined in Section 6.3, Governance, and provide complete documentation for all systems components provided by the Contractor. In addition, solutions proposed under this contract shall conform with NOAA's Enterprise Architecture (a controlled document available through the CO or COTR). Task order proposals shall clearly indicate the methodology and personnel responsible for performing all security tasks. The Government may delegate aspects of system resource documentation and management to the Contractor, but will retain full authority over system resources and information security. Under no circumstances is a Contractor permitted to make any use of organization computer equipment or supplies for purposes other than performance on this contract.

C.6.2.4 Certification and Accreditation (C&A)

C.6.2.4.1 In order to maintain a consistent security posture across potentially multiple sites, the Contractor shall be required to adhere to the Governance documents list in Section 6.3. All procedures shall be documented and maintained as part of the required NIST SP 800-37 Certification and Accreditation (C&A) package. All IT equipment delivered as part of this procurement is to be considered a Government computing resource, regardless of its location or actual owner. NOAA will provide the current C&A documentation for the existing sub components to the Contractor upon request. The Contractor shall participate in the maintenance of the complete security documentation for R&D HPCS from the time of award through the end of the contract. Key NOAA personnel will also participate in this process.

C.6.2.4.2 The System Owner (SO) will be the Director of the NOAA HPCC Office.



C.6.2.4.3 The Information System Security Officer (ISSO) will be the Network/IT Security Project Manager.

C.6.2.4.4 The Contractor may elect to employ equipment that is not part of the delivery for use in remotely diagnosing, monitoring, or managing the delivered system. If this Contractor-owned equipment has any special access or trust relationship with the delivered system, then the Contractor shall initiate and maintain any appropriate C&A documentation for this equipment as a separate Government system.

C.6.2.4.5 The Contractor shall support all aspects of the C&A effort. The Contractor shall provide a Concept of Operations detailing its actions in support of all system tasks prior to acceptance. An independent party will conduct the Certification Test and Evaluation (CT&E) testing for the R&D HPCS.

C.6.2.5 System Boundaries and Network

C.6.2.5.1 The Government will provide the network connectivity to all devices outside of the system. The Government will provide dedicated private communications between sites. The Contractor is responsible for establishing, maintaining and supporting communications point of presence for all its systems to enable connectivity to NOAA-provided WAN/LAN resources. The Contractor shall assist in performance tuning to ensure the best possible available communications with all external devices. Additionally, the Contractor shall also assist in troubleshooting and issue diagnostics for wide area and local area network communications. Local area network bandwidth and performance requirements will be defined at the task order level. The Contractor shall monitor all internal network segments. The Government will work with the Contractor to develop specific reporting metrics after contract award.

C.6.2.5.2 The Government will provide infrastructure services, including but not limited to, domain name services (DNS), directory services, remote access, authentication, network time protocol (ntp), and web. The Government will work with the Contractor to identify and develop, as necessary, specific services after contract award.

C.6.2.5.3 The system boundary is defined as containing all devices in the system inventory. The Security Team will maintain devices and services necessary to deliver the services identified in C.6.2.5.2.



Network Schematic

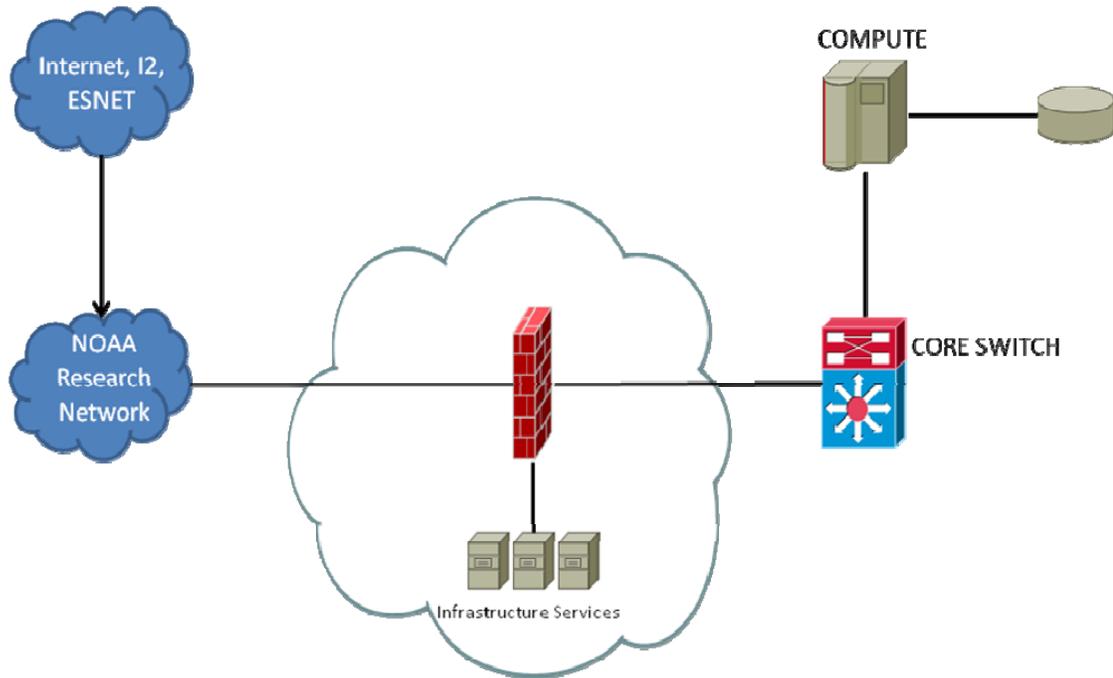


Fig. C.6.2.5.3: Network Schematic

C.6.3 Governance

C.6.3.1 Documentation

C.6.3.1.1 All documents that the Contractor provides to the Government shall be in electronic format. Electronic copies shall be delivered via e-mail attachment or other media by mutual agreement of the parties. The Contractor shall use appropriately secure transmission and storage methods (e.g., encryption during transmission for sensitive but unclassified materials);

C.6.3.1.2 The electronic document copies shall be compatible with MS Office products or other applications as mutually agreed to by all parties;

C.6.3.1.3 It is the responsibility of the Contractor to ensure that all data transmitted via tape, CD, diskette, or e-mail is virus free;

C.6.3.1.4 The Government requires the Contractor to maintain a current, itemized list of all Contractor-supplied hardware and software items in printable electronic form. The Government may request assistance in tracking inventory, including equipment not provided by the Contractor that is part of this overall HPC program. The listing shall be updated whenever a system upgrade or engineering



change proposal results in a change to the system configuration or delivery of additional equipment. The listing shall be published and maintained in the on-line project document repository provided by the Government; and

C.6.3.1.5 The Contractor shall provide adequate documentation for maintenance of the Project Management and the Configuration Management systems. This includes, but is not limited to, baseline configuration, implementation methodology, a formal project plan, and documentation of administrative tasks.

C.6.3.2 Document Repository

All documents pertaining to this project shall be placed in the online repository provided by the Government, likely as a SharePoint site.

C.6.3.3 Policies

The Government will provide initial versions of the governance documents. These documents establish the governance policies. The Contractor shall adhere to these policies. The Contractor may propose revisions to the documents; however the Government is solely responsible for approval of changes to the documents. The documents will be located in the Government repository for reference. The documents will cover, at a minimum, the Security Plan, configuration management, inventory management, account management, disaster recovery, remote access, media handling, records management, facilities CONOPs, and incident management.

C.6.4 Transition Services

C.6.4.1 Transition-In Task

At contract award, the Government will provide the Contractor with a statement of work to transition current R&D operations and support services from the incumbent Contractor. The Government will support the Contractor by providing access to pertinent documentation and facilitating in-depth site visits to familiarize the Contractor with existing systems and expectations for transition.

C.6.4.1.1 Proposed Transition-In Solution

Within thirty (30) days from receipt of the Government's transition requirements, the Contractor shall propose a transition solution for maintaining and operating the current R&D HPCS. The proposal shall include a description on the disposition of all existing leases held by the incumbent Contractor. At a minimum, the plan shall be consistent with the PMP referenced in Section 6.1.5. The Government expects that the transition will be completed by no later than Q4 of fiscal year 2010.

C.6.4.1.2 Continuity of Operations



Of particular concern is maintaining continuity of essential services such as user trouble ticket support, configuration management and security. The Contractor is expected to work with the Government to develop transition/support plans during the third quarter of FY 2010, to implement straightforward and/or pilot programs during the third quarter of FY 2010 and to provide comprehensive support by the end of the fourth quarter FY 2010. The Contractor shall be responsible for supporting the additional computational capabilities received by NOAA from external sources.

C.6.4.1.3 GFDL (Princeton, NJ)

Currently, GFDL houses its pre/post processing, large scale computing and long term storage assets at its Princeton location. By FY 2011, GFDL's large scale processing requirements will be provided by ORNL. The Contractor shall be responsible for pre/post processing and long-term storage requirements which will remain local to GFDL. As production computing is transferred to ORNL, the Contractor shall work with the Government to decommission systems located in the Princeton facility while fully supporting on-going activities. The Contractor shall work closely with the Government to design and deliver a very large long term storage system to meet GFDL requirements. The Contractor shall support GFDL's existing leased and Government-owned R&D HPCS subsystem assets until the Government no longer requires support. System availability of 95% and scientific data availability of 95% shall be met or exceeded.

C.6.4.1.4 NCEP (Gaithersburg, MD)

Currently, NCEP houses its pre/post processing, large scale computing and long term storage assets at IBM's facility in Gaithersburg, MD. The Contractor shall support NCEP's existing leased and Government-owned R&D HPCS subsystem assets until the Government no longer requires support. System availability of 97% and scientific data availability of 99% shall be met or exceeded.

C.6.4.1.5 ESRL (Boulder, CO)

Currently, ESRL houses its pre/post processing, large scale computing and long term storage assets at its Boulder location. ESRL is housed in a Government facility managed by the General Services Administration (GSA); details regarding interaction with GSA shall be provided by the Government if required. The Contractor shall support ESRL's existing leased and Government-owned R&D HPCS subsystem assets until the Government no longer requires support. System availability of 97% and scientific data availability of 99% shall be met or exceeded.

C.6.4.2 Transition-Out Task

The Contractor shall fully support the transition from this contract to its successor.

C.6.4.2.1 Proposed Transition-Out Solution



At the end of this contract, the Contractor shall develop and submit, within sixty (60) days of a written request by the Government, a comprehensive Transition Baseline Plan. The goal of the Transition Baseline Plan is to avoid disruption of the day-to-day conduct of HPC computing while achieving a smooth and orderly transfer of responsibility from the incumbent Contractor to a successor Contractor. At a minimum, the Transition Baseline Plan shall contain all information related to current system configuration, performance, support requirements, issues, risks, and other information deemed pertinent by the Government. This plan shall be submitted to the Contracting Officer and COTR.

C.6.4.2.2 Continuity of Operations

Up to six (6) calendar months prior to the completion of this contract, an observation period shall occur, during which time personnel of the successor Contractor may observe operations and performance methods of the outgoing Contractor. This will allow for orderly turnover of facilities, equipment, and records and will help to ensure continuity of service. The outgoing Contractor shall not defer any requirements for the purpose of avoiding responsibility for or of transferring such responsibility to the succeeding Contractor. The outgoing Contractor shall fully cooperate with the succeeding Contractor and the Government so as not to interfere with a smooth transition and ongoing accomplishment of the Government's work.

C.6.5 Target Architecture Task

As discussed in Section C.4.2, the Contractor shall provide all labor, equipment, and material necessary to deliver, install, migrate to, operate and maintain NOAA's target Environmental Security Architecture (ESA). Travel may be required. Upon contract award, the Government will provide the Contractor with a set of requirements, benchmark codes, and a functional design for the ESA.

C.6.6 System Migration Services

The Contractor shall install, de-install, configure, and maintain acquired high performance computing systems, maintain long term storage systems, and integrate new and existing systems over the life of this contract.

C.6.6.1 Migration Requirements

The Contractor shall assist in the migration of workloads from existing systems to target systems with minimal disruption to the user community. These migrations shall be time phased. The Contractor shall develop the migration schedule, which depends on factors that include the new system architecture, hardware acquisition and other NOAA considerations and requirements.

C.6.6.1.1 Transition Plan



The Government's data is essential to its mission. Therefore, ninety (90) calendar days prior to all data migrations, system changes and system upgrades, and/or at the Government's request, the Contractor shall submit a comprehensive Transition Plan to the Contracting Officer and COTR. At a minimum, it shall contain an overview, schedule, information related to configuration, performance, support requirements, risks, a cost/benefit analysis and other information deemed pertinent by the Government. This plan shall be submitted with enough lead time for the Government to make required facility modifications if necessary and to coordinate technical constraints with the Government's respective users. This activity shall be integrated with, updated and tracked in the PMP.

C.6.6.1.2 Transition Support

The Contractor shall provide system migration support and complete all migration activities, including inventory management. Support services includes: planning and analysis of migration activities, development of migration schedules, transport, installation and de-installation of Government-provided hardware (if required, e.g., for removal of excess or obsolete systems or transport to another local or remote site), software, and data. Migration also includes data and software conversion.

C.6.7 Acquisition Services

The Contractor shall competitively acquire HPC systems for the Government's use. HPC systems will be defined at the task order level.

C.6.7.1 Acquisition Services Requirements

As part of acquisition support, the Contractor shall (1) prepare and deliver an acquisition sourcing package and (2) acquire solutions consistent with the acquisition sourcing package. Sourcing high performance computing under this contract is not limited by past acquisition and ownership practices. All methods of acquiring these solutions may be considered. The acquisition sourcing package shall include the following as applicable:

C.6.7.1.1 Requirements analysis and analysis of alternatives;

C.6.7.1.1.1 The Contractor shall provide appropriately detailed and persuasive analyses in support of acquisitions, particularly alternative source acquisitions. The Contractor shall provide a trade-off analysis of proposed alternatives. If the Contractor proposes to meet a requirement with internal resources, e.g., the Contractor's own time-sharing facility, then that recommendation shall be persuasively and transparently justified to the Government;



C.6.7.1.2 Develop IT system solicitation documentation and supporting documentation, including a source selection plan;

C.6.7.1.3 Design, build, and administer performance validation package;

C.6.7.1.4 Solicit proposals from Offerors;

C.6.7.1.5 Evaluate proposals and negotiate best value;

C.6.7.1.6 Document results of the evaluation and negotiation of received proposals;

C.6.7.1.7 Identify subcontract(s) and alternative source subcontracts;

C.6.7.1.8 Propose supplemental performance validation tests to enhance the Government's Inspection and Acceptance Criteria;

C.6.7.1.9 Propose required physical plant and facilities and changes/impacts risks and alternatives that require significant lead time;

C.6.7.1.10 Propose required governance documents and changes/impacts risks and alternatives that require significant lead time; and

C.6.7.1.11 Provide any recommendations for improvements of Government acceptance tests.

C.6.7.2 Acquisition Considerations

In each case, the Government will evaluate the solution that best fits current and expected future circumstances, considering budget, finance, technology, information technology market, user requirements, enterprise architecture, compatibility, risk, security, performance, level of automation, functionality, policy, regulation, and other relevant factors.

C.6.7.3 Acquisition Frequency

The Contractor shall be required to acquire new or upgraded IT hardware, system software, and support services when requested. There is no fixed interval for periodic upgrades; the schedule depends upon user requirements, resource availability, and technical, architectural, energy efficient and management considerations that are not established in advance. These factors shall be considered by the Contractor in developing an optimal implementation schedule.



C.6.8 Acquisition and Implementation of Home File System in Princeton

C.6.8.1 The Contractor shall provide a highly available, fully-redundant Home File System and mechanism for backup at NOAA's GFDL in Princeton, NJ. The Home File System shall natively support Linux, Macintosh, and Windows clients via NFSv3, NFSv4, and CIFS. Administration shall be through HTTP and/or SSH, and monitoring shall be via SNMP. Snapshot capability shall be provided. The system shall sustain at least 1.2 gigabytes/sec of throughput during a rebuild. A minimum of one 1Gig-E network interface and two 10Gig-E network interfaces with expansion for at least two additional 10Gig-E interfaces shall be provided. The delivered solution shall have usable storage of not less than 100TB with expansion to at least 300TB. The use of high-capacity drives for a smaller power and physical footprint is required. The system shall utilize dual-parity in the drive configuration. The system shall include 7x24x365 support, with response time for service calls within two (2) hours, required onsite support within four (4) hours for four (4) years.

C.6.8.2 The new Home File System shall be backed up using Veritas NetBackup for NDMP. The existing Sun StorageTek SL500 library shall be enhanced by adding tape slots and Fibre Channel LTO-4 tape drives as described in the table entitled "Sun SL500 Tape Library Expansion". The LTO-4 tape drives shall be connected to the new HFS by means of a Fibre Channel switch as described in the table entitled "Additional Fibre Channel Equipment". There shall be at least one FC HBA port on the new HFS for each LTO-4 tape drive. The new HFS shall function as a NDMP backup server under control of the existing NetBackup master server. The required NetBackup licenses and support shall be purchased as described in the table entitled "Veritas NetBackup Licenses Required".

C.6.8.3 The solution shall address silent data corruption issues through support of t10 dif or by other means.

Sun SL500 Tape Library Expansion

Description	Quantity
SL500 Drive Expansion Module for LTO only with FullDEM license	1
Redundant power supply for DEM	1
IBM LTO-4 Fibre Channel tape drive	5
DEM warranty upgrade to Silver support	1
LTO-4 FC tape drive warranty upgrade to Silver support	5
Installation of DEM during local business hours	1
Installation of redundant power supply during local business hours	1



Installation of LTO-4 tape drive during local business hours	5
LTO-4 tape cartridges with barcode labels in sequence beginning at L02001	200

Fig. C.6.8-1: Sun SL500 Tape Library Expansion

Additional Fibre Channel Equipment

Description	Quantity
Fibre Channel switch w/ minimum of 20 FC ports	1
Fibre Channel cables, LC-LC, 50/125, duplex, lengths TBD	10

Fig. C.6.8-2: Additional Fibre Channel Equipment

Veritas NetBackup Licenses Required

Description	Quantity
Veritas NetBackup Option - NDMP Option 6.5 XPLAT License	1
Veritas NetBackup Option - NDMP Option 6.5 XPLAT Basic 12 Months Support	1
Veritas NetBackup Option - Library Based Tape Drive 6.5 XPLAT License	5
Veritas NetBackup Option - Library Based Tape Drive 6.5 XPLAT Basic 12 Months Support	5

Fig. C.6.8-3: Veritas NetBackup Licenses Required

C.6.9 Storage Management Services

The Contractor shall manage all NOAA mass storage subsystems, including robotic tape libraries, fabrics, data movement, disk subsystems, storage servers, and related hardware, software, and infrastructure. For a sense of scale, it is anticipated that GFDL's HSMS will grow at a rates around 50PB/year, and faster as more computational capability becomes available. The actual data growth rates, performance and capacities at each site will be identified in specific tasks and are expected to evolve over the life of the contract. At a minimum, storage management tasks shall include the following:

C.6.9.1 Monitoring and reporting system use, including resiliency, reliability, availability, and serviceability (RRAS); Monitoring and reporting shall include:



C.6.9.1.1 Remaining capacity/capacity projection;

C.6.9.1.2 Media consumption rate;

C.6.9.2 Tuning subsystems for optimal performance;

C.6.9.3 Acquiring, upgrading, and managing mass storage hardware to balance the capacity and performance of tape, disk, cache, memory, servers, and network bandwidth;

C.6.9.4 Installing and configuring peripheral devices;

C.6.9.5 Complying with storage management policies;

C.6.9.6 Assisting users;

C.6.9.7 Migrating system and system-related application software and system and user data across devices, formats, subsystems and platforms;

C.6.9.8 Allocating storage capacity and managing storage formats to make optimum use of available space, provide appropriate redundancy, reliability, throughput, and response time;

C.6.9.9 Performing systematic integrity checks. Climate simulations that may run on the HPC system for as long as a year of wall-clock time are a key element of NOAA's mission. Such long-running experiments are particularly vulnerable to data integrity problems, and thus impose severe constraints on the acceptable levels of silent error; in particular, a level of no more than one part in a petabyte is required today. This tolerance decreases as resolutions increase. NOAA has extensive experience detecting such problems and working with the Contractor to eliminate it. Ongoing integrity checks must be built into the system to guard against them. In addition, communication of NOAA scientists, systems staff and Contractor personnel is required to facilitate resolution of integrity problems; and

C.6.9.10 Providing technology roadmaps. Storage standards are continuously evolving. The Contractor shall keep NOAA apprised of changes that may impact or enhance its implemented storage architecture. As appropriate, the Contractor shall evolve NOAA to storage technologies that reduce risk, improve performance, and improve capacity.

C.6.10 Resiliency, Reliability, Availability, and Serviceability (RRAS)

The HPCS offered shall continue NOAA's historically high utilization of its computing resources. Resiliency, Reliability, Availability, and Serviceability are considered fundamental aspects of the HPCS. The Government expects dialog and suggestions on how to best incorporate RRAS features into its environment.

C.6.10.1 Resiliency for HPC Resources



The HPC resources infrastructure shall be resilient. The underlying hardware/software/infrastructure shall be able to recover gracefully from faults and failures by rapid re-provisioning of resources or similar mechanism. Components such as file systems shall be provisioned with some form of redundancy to ensure high availability and to prevent loss of data. It is expected that some form of self monitoring will be implemented to provide predictive analysis of component failures.

C.6.10.2 Reliability

C.6.10.2.1 NOAA requires highly reliable HPC resources to meet its mission requirements. Hardware, software and overall design shall be comprised of reliable components in order to avoid interruptions to NOAA's work flow. System resources shall support continuous monitoring and a mechanism whereby errors are reported for analysis and subsequent action. Reliability will be examined during acceptance via tests of numerical reproducibility, numerical accuracy, data integrity and run-time variability.

C.6.10.2.2 Similar tests, although of a shorter duration, will follow every system outage involving any hardware or software upgrades. The Government, at its discretion, reserves the right to verify proper function at any time. NOAA requires data integrity across the system, in particular identical codes run on essentially identical hardware and software are expected to provide bit-wise exact results. The Government shall be made aware of any software or hardware options/optimizations that need to be disabled to ensure bit-wise exact results. The Government also requires that data movement and storage shall not produce data corruption. Data integrity requirements will be specified at the task order level in subsequent statements of work associated with this contract.

C.6.10.3 Availability

Over the years, NOAA has made use of a wide variety of computer architectures for research and development. It has been NOAA's experience that these architectures, with few exceptions, all have been highly available (e.g. the upper 90's percent) and used on a 7x24x365 basis. Some of the few possible exceptions are novel architectures acquired for computer science research (e.g. GPU cluster).

C.6.10.3.1 The Contractor should expect an availability requirement to accompany each statement of work it receives for HPC systems or subsystems. The Contractor shall meet or exceed the availability requirement in each instance. The Contractor shall describe, in detail, features designed to enhance availability. The Contractor is encouraged to propose and provide innovative HPC solutions that may represent significant enhancements in performance while balancing availability requirements. Availability requirements shall meet or exceed current levels of performance.



C.6.10.3.2 For each HPC system or subsystem, the Contractor shall describe how the availability requirement shall be met and how availability shall be managed throughout the period of performance to include: continuous monitoring, upgrades, scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, security patching, and day-to-day system usage.

C.6.10.3.3 Although availability will be monitored continuously, it shall be assessed on a monthly basis. The Contractor shall establish and maintain accurate monitoring with associated performance data (CPU, memory, storage and I/O) to include: total performance, available performance, consumed performance, lost performance (any type of outage) and impacts to workloads or users due to lost performance.

C.6.10.3.4 The Government may choose to monitor independently. At its discretion, the Government reserves the right to use availability and performance tests described in Section E for any 30-day period of its choosing. Any deviations from the Contractor's proposed levels shall be remedied immediately.

C.6.10.3.5 A component's unavailability (or downtime) shall commence from the time the Government or the Contractor determines that a downtime condition has occurred and been documented. Final determination of system downtime will be made at the sole discretion the Government. A component's downtime shall end when it is returned to the Government in operable condition as determined by the Government as ready to perform all of the workload.

C.6.10.3.6 The Contractor should expect higher availability requirements for the storage components that it delivers. The Government's data resources are critical to the Government and shall describe measures to ensure the integrity of the data stored on storage resources.

C.6.10.3.7 Typically, the Contractor shall provide additional hardware resources as necessary to make up for availability or success rate/performance shortfalls. However, the Government reserves the right to negotiate for other forms of consideration.

C.6.10.4 Serviceability

A high level of serviceability is required to meet NOAA's availability needs. HPC resource design shall incorporate features supporting individual component service leaving the remainder of the resource available to perform work. Design features that permit work to continue in a degraded mode while service is underway are preferable to outages. Features that support scheduled maintenance rather than time-critical repairs are desired. Contractors shall indicate the size of a room needed to store spare parts if necessary.

C.6.11 Operations and Maintenance Services



The Contractor shall provide support for the operations and maintenance for all hardware and software provided as GFE or acquired under this contract.

C.6.12 Software Optimization and Tuning Services

The Contractor shall provide support for optimizing and tuning the performance of scientific applications in numerical weather and climate prediction running on the systems that the Contractor delivers.

C.6.13 Help Desk Support Services

The Contractor shall provide help desk support to application programmers and users regarding the following;

C.6.13.1 Job execution and performance issues;

C.6.13.2 Availability of data, hardware, subsystems, and systems application software;

C.6.13.3 Online user documentation;

C.6.13.4 Allocation of hardware and software resources; and

C.6.13.5 Processing system trouble/change tickets.

C.6.14 System Capacity and System Performance Management Services

The Contractor shall manage the capacity and performance of high performance computing systems, mass storage, internetworks, and IT security infrastructures. Capacity and performance management services includes:

C.6.14.1 Monitoring and reporting on system use, up time, scheduled downtime and unscheduled downtime;

C.6.14.2 Trend analysis;

C.6.14.3 Workload characterization and forecasting;

C.6.14.4 Resource allocation;

C.6.14.5 Profiling application programs; and

C.6.14.6 Performance engineering of software systems.

C.6.15 Configuration Management (CM)

The Contractor shall maintain configuration management over all software and hardware delivered under this contract. Configuration management processes and tools are in place at Boulder, Princeton, and Gaithersburg. The Contractor's CM plan will integrate the use of these existing tools and processes.



C.6.16 Facility Requirements and Procedures

C.6.16.1 Overview

Two Government facilities are offered for housing HPC equipment under this contract. The Government reserves the right to offer additional facilities for future requirements. The two facilities, one located at the GFDL in Princeton, NJ and the other at ESRL in Boulder, CO, house HPC equipment under the current R&D HPCS contract that runs through September 30, 2010. A third facility is planned to be provided, the location of which is yet to be finalized, is expected to have approximately 20,000 square feet of data center floor space and 2.5 megawatts of system load power; this facility is expected to be available for equipment installation by the 3rd quarter of calendar year 2011.

C.6.16.2 Documentation of Facility Characteristics, Policies, and Procedures

Information regarding the facilities available for the housing of equipment under this contract is in the R&D HPCS Facilities Concept of Operations, referred to as the Facility ConOps. The Facility ConOps is an active, dynamic document in the document repository and contains information regarding facility characteristics, procedures, and policies for GFDL and ESRL. The information for the third site will be provided at a later date. The information contained in the Facility ConOps includes:

C.6.16.2.1 High-level description of the physical room dimensions, including raised floor characteristics, loading capacity, and room ceiling heights;

C.6.16.2.2 Current equipment positioning;

C.6.16.2.3 Mechanical capacities and specifications;

C.6.16.2.4 Electrical capacities and specifications;

C.6.16.2.5 Description and specifications of the facility's Life Safety system;

C.6.16.2.6 Description of the facility's mechanical/electrical system supply and distribution;

C.6.16.2.7 Installation access procedures, including loading dock, equipment delivery path, designated assembly areas; and

C.6.16.2.8 Prescribed limits for HPC equipment power, chilled water, and available data center floor space.

Additional information will be provided in the Facility ConOps regarding:



C.6.16.2.9 Lead Time requirements for facility modification proposals;

C.6.16.2.10 Office space, phone service, etc. for Contractor personnel;

C.6.16.2.11 Facility management, including maintenance responsibilities;

C.6.16.2.12 Change management;

C.6.16.2.13 Building access and other security policies; and

C.6.16.2.14 Computer operations.

C.6.16.3 Facility ConOps Availability

The Facility ConOps contains sensitive information. As such, this document is only available to authorized persons. Requests for the Facility ConOps document must be submitted in writing via e-mail to the Contracting Officer at william.voitk@noaa.gov. Please reference the solicitation number and "Facility ConOps Request" in the subject line.

C.6.16.4 Procedures for Facility Modification Requests

If any Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) requires an alteration to one of the Government facilities, such as, but not limited to, the modification of electrical or mechanical infrastructure, a significant change in the utilization of power, chilled water, floor space, change in equipment layout in the room, any structural or architectural changes and/or modifications, the Contractor shall provide the Government with the following as part of its ECP documentation:

C.6.16.4.1 Justification as to why the facility modification is required;

C.6.16.4.2 An actionable engineering design plan (with a level of detail consistent with the complexity of the proposed modifications) that provides technical information regarding the Contractor's proposed engineering facility changes and the estimated cost to the Government to perform the facility modifications;

C.6.16.4.3 Once the Government approves the proposed facility modifications, the Contractor shall deliver an implementation schedule that indicates the time required to complete the facility changes. This time should be at least as long as the lead time designated in the Facility ConOps document for the facility modification category consistent with this type of facility change for the designated facility;



C.6.16.4.4 If new equipment is proposed, the Contractor shall deliver a detailed product specification sheet for each separate system component that is to be installed as a part of the ECP, with quantities identified. The product specification sheets shall include, at a minimum, the peak and steady state power rating for the component, operating temperature and humidity acceptable ranges, physical dimensions, and floor loading rating; and

C.6.16.4.5 Propose equipment such that the aggregate utilization of power, chilled water, and floor space by all Contractor equipment does not exceed the limits prescribed by the Facility ConOps for the designated facility. Final Acceptance shall require construction level documents specifying the Contractor's adherence to their proposed power requirements. Any equipment additions or space modification must include a re-engineered air distribution scheme with water- and air-side balancing.

C.6.16.5 The Government's Facility Coordinator at the designated facility will review the information provided, in consultation with the Contractor's representative and the Government's Facility Committee. At its discretion, the Government may choose to obtain an engineering design proposal from an independent source. Based on the findings of the review and negotiations with the Contractor, the Facility Coordinator will make recommendations to Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) regarding the proposed facility modifications to meet the Contractor's requirements.

C.6.16.6 If the facility modifications are approved by the Government and are acceptable to the Contractor, the Government will carry out the construction plans to make the required changes to the facility within the agreed-upon time period. At its discretion, the Government may choose to outsource the construction.

C.6.16.7 The cost of the design and implementation of the facility modifications shall be deducted from the funds provided to the Contractor to complete the ECP.

C.6.16.8 Prior to equipment installation, the Contractor shall review the facility modifications to determine whether they meet its requirements.

C.6.16.9 Responsibilities for HPCS Operation

The following are designated responsibilities of the Government and Contractor regarding the operation of the HPC equipment at a GFE facility:

C.6.16.9.1 The Government will seek to operate its facilities under a Tier 1 approach, based on the Uptime Institute's site infrastructure performance industry standard tier classification system;

C.6.16.9.2 The Government will monitor key environmental indicators continuously every day of the year;



C.6.16.9.3 The Government will provide best effort management of temperature and humidity to meet the equipment requirements of the Contractor and to maximize energy efficiency;

C.6.16.9.4 The Contractor shall provide the Government with the product specification sheets that document acceptable operational ranges (peak and steady state power rating, temperature, humidity, physical dimensions, and floor loading) for each system component that it proposes to install;

C.6.16.9.5 The Contractor shall monitor its equipment at all times and provide the Government with prompt notification when the equipment is operating outside of its acceptable range. In such a situation, the Contractor shall shut down its equipment to prevent damage. Such shutdown procedures should be designed to protect hardware first and to provide best effort for protecting data stored in disk storage. If the Contractor does not consider the Government's monitoring devices are adequate for its needs, it may add additional devices at its own cost, subject to Government approval, so long as it shares all monitoring data with the Government; and

C.6.16.9.6 The Contractor shall be responsible for any damage to its equipment that results from the environment operating outside of desired specification. The Contractor shall meet with the Site and Facility Leads on a quarterly basis to discuss concerns and suggest areas of improvement. A summary of these meetings will be presented in the quarterly reports.

C.6.16.10 Procedures for Management of Electric Utility Power

C.6.16.10.1 Power Reserve

The entire funds available for this effort are identified in Section C.5.2. This includes not only the cost of the equipment and contractual services acquired under this contract, but also the cost to operate, maintain, power, and cool the delivered systems. It is the Government's intent that all of the costs for power to operate and cool all of the equipment acquired under this contract be set aside from the annual funds available to the Contractor.

In view of the above, when the Contractor submits proposals to the Government for consideration, for any equipment requiring power and cooling, the Contractor shall provide the Government with the projected peak and sustained power and cooling requirements by month over the contract life of the equipment proposed to be acquired. The subsequent negotiations between the Government and the Contractor regarding the overall design of the equipment to be delivered will include consideration of the life-cycle cost of operating this equipment to include the cost of power and cooling over the life of the equipment. This cost will be set aside from the annual funds available for each



year in which that equipment is operating together with an additional 6% reserve to be applied toward additional efficiency improvements and facility maintenance, if it is not needed to cover unexpected utility cost over-runs. In addition, the projected funds reserved in the years following the initial equipment installation will include a 5% annual increase to cover expected utility rate increases.

C.6.16.10.2 Power Allowance and Calculation

The Government will establish an acceptable power usage effectiveness (PUE) and monthly kilowatt hour usage ceiling for each location prior to task order award. The concept and application of the power allowance and calculation is described in the example below. The example is based on real metrics currently in use at GFDL in FY2010. The spreadsheet attached in Appendix E will be revised to include actual metrics established for each location prior to task order award.

Application Example:

The Government commits to make 1,190 kVA of power available for compute at GFDL. For the sake of estimating power costs for the next available year, the Government determined that this is essentially equal to 1,190 kW. To arrive at a kilowatt hour (kWh) total for each month, multiply 1,190 kW by 24 hours and then by the number of days in the month. This is represented by the equation:

$$1,190 \text{ kW} \times 24 \text{ Hours} \times \text{Days/Month} = (\text{Total kWh})/\text{Month}$$

To arrive at the number of kilowatt hours to be charged to the funds available for this contract, the Government will account for both the power necessary for computing and for cooling the computer. To calculate this, the Government establishes a PUE of two. Therefore, it is necessary to multiply the above result by two to account for both the power for compute and the power for cooling. This is represented by the equation:

$$(\text{Total kWh})/\text{Month} \times 2 = (\text{Total Charged kWh})/\text{Month}$$

To arrive at the total amount of funds to be held back by the Government to pay the power bill each month, the Government will multiply the Total Charged kWh)/Month by the estimated rate for that month. The rates at GFDL are estimated to be about \$0.135/kWh for the months of October 2009 through May 2010 and \$0.148/kWh for the months of June 2010 through September 2010. This enables the Government to arrive at a FY2010 estimate for power costs for GFDL.

To determine if the Contractor owes consideration to the Government, as the year progresses, the Government will insert actual kWh values per month from the Contractor installed metering application into the appropriate cells C22-C33 of the attached spreadsheet, Appendix E. The formulas in the spreadsheet perform the calculations described above and in the end will determine if the power allowance is exceeded and consideration is owed to the Government.



C.7 CONTRACT OPTIONS

C.7.1 Optional Periods

This contract consists of a four (4) year base contract period with a four (4) year option period and a one (1) year transition option. The four (4) year option period, if exercised, will commence upon expiration of the base contract. The one (1) year transition option may be exercised at any time, but may be exercised only once.

C.7.2 Additional HPCS Augmentations and Acquisitions

C.7.2.1 Over the life of the contract there may arise situations that will require augmentation to the HPCS or the acquisitions of additional HPCS. One such situation might result if NOAA identifies a new requirement for high performance computing that did not exist at the time of contract award. A second situation might result if NOAA were to enter into an inter-agency agreement with another federal agency to supply that agency with computational resources. In order to accommodate these, and similar situations, the contract includes options to obtain additional high performance computing resources as necessary. The additional HPC resources are comprised of several major elements to include, but not limited to compute systems, storage systems, networking, software, workstations, and maintenance as included in Section B. This contract includes additional available ceiling to acquire additional hardware and software as required. This additional ceiling is included in the not-to-exceed ceiling amounts of the CLINs identified in Section B.

C.7.2.2 Furthermore, in addition to the items identified in Section B of this contract, the Government may, during the term of this contract, require goods and services not otherwise specifically identified, but within the scope of this contract. Should requirements arise, these additional goods and services will be negotiated under the Changes clause of this contract.

C.7.3 Engineering Services

Included in this contract is a growth option CLIN to acquire additional engineering services. Should this CLIN be exercised, these services will be acquired through the issuance of a delivery order or modification. Once exercised, this optional CLIN is effective for the life of the contract.

C.7.3.1 Applications Analyst Services

The Government requires an option to acquire senior applications analysts for porting, tuning, optimizing, and developing scientific applications in numerical weather prediction or climate prediction. The applications analyst shall work with NOAA application



engineers and scientists. The analyst shall have direct access to vendor compiler development teams.

C.7.3.2 Systems/Network/Security Engineering Services

NOAA may require system, network, or security engineering services. Activities may include, but are not limited to the following:

C.7.3.2.1 Install/remove vendor supplied OS and systems software (compilers, batch system, etc) upgrades;

C.7.3.2.2 Manage upgrades for COTS or Community Supported software supplied via the contract;

C.7.3.2.3 Use systems utilities to tune performance;

C.7.3.2.4 Provide utilization and performance information to the extent the systems allow;

C.7.3.2.5 Customize configurations of software and hardware;

C.7.3.2.6 Collaborate with Contractor and Government staff;

C.7.3.2.7 Comprehensively document plans and performed activities;

C.7.3.2.8 Diagnose technical problems. Including distinguishing between hardware, software, and user errors;

C.7.3.2.9 Work at an application level in the event job scheduling, interpretive utilities (such as scripting languages), compilers and runtime libraries are suspect;

C.7.3.2.10 Support end users;

C.7.3.2.11 Systems Analysis;

C.7.3.2.12 Evaluate current methodologies and offer expert-level advice on alternatives or target solutions; and

C.7.3.2.13 Comprehend and apply security upgrades. Collaborative work with Government IT security staff is essential.

C.7.3.3 Facilities Engineering Services

NOAA may require architectural, electrical, mechanical or civil engineering services. Activities may include, but are not limited to the following:

C.7.3.3.1 Facility Engineering Consulting Services;



- C.7.3.3.2 General Engineering Studies;
- C.7.3.3.3 Specific Engineering Studies; and
- C.7.3.3.4 Design Services.

C.7.3.4 Visualization/Data Engineering Services

NOAA may require visualization, graphics, or data engineering services. Activities may include, but are not limited to the following:

- C.7.3.4.1 Generation and manipulation of graphical products;
- C.7.3.4.2 Data flow optimization;
- C.7.3.4.3 Creating and using tools for accessing, manipulating, viewing and representing the data;
- C.7.3.4.4 Data Conversion;
- C.7.3.4.5 Metadata manipulation for downstream post-processing;
- C.7.3.4.6 Data format evolution and porting; and
- C.7.3.4.7 End user support.

C.8 SECURITY PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTOR/SUBCONTRACTOR PERSONNEL WORKING ON A DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SITE OR IT SYSTEM (High or Moderate Risk Contracts) (CAR 1352.237-71) (December 2006)

a. Investigative Requirements for High and Moderate Risk Contracts

All Contractor (and subcontractor) personnel proposed to be employed under a High or Moderate Risk contract shall undergo security processing by the Department's Office of Security before being eligible to work on the premises of any Department of Commerce facility, or through a Department of Commerce IT system. All Department of Commerce security processing pertinent to this contract will be conducted at no cost to the Contractor. The level of contract risk will determine the type and scope of such processing as noted below.

- i. Non-IT Service Contracts
 - 1. High Risk - Background Investigation (BI)



(MBI) 2. Moderate Risk - Moderate Background Investigation

ii. IT Service Contracts

1. High Risk IT - Background Investigation (BI)
2. Moderate Risk IT - Background Investigation (BI)

iii. In addition to the investigations noted above, non-U.S. citizens must have a pre-appointment check that includes a Customs and Immigration Service (CIS - formerly Immigration and Naturalization Service) agency check.

b. Additional Requirements for Foreign Nationals (Non-U.S. Citizens). To be employed under this contract within the United States, non-U.S. citizens must have:

i. Official legal status in the United States

ii. Continuously resided in the United States for the last two years; and

iii. Advance approval from the servicing Security Officer of the contracting operating unit in consultation with the Office of Security (OSY) headquarters. (OSY routinely consults with appropriate agencies regarding the use of non-U.S. citizens on contracts and can provide up-to-date information concerning this matter.)

c. Security Processing Requirement

i. Processing requirements for High and Moderate Risk Contracts are as follows:

1. The Contractor must complete and submit the following forms to the Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR):

a. Standard Form 85P (SF-85P), Questionnaire for Public Trust Positions;

b. FD-258, Fingerprint Chart with OPM's designation in the ORI Block; and

c. Credit Release Authorization.

2. The COTR will review these forms for completeness, initiate the CD-254, Contract Security Classification Specification, and forward the documents to the cognizant Security Officer.

3. Upon completion of the security processing, the Office of Security, through the servicing Security Officer and the



COTR, will notify the Contractor in writing of the individual's eligibility to be given access to a Department of Commerce facility or Department of Commerce IT system.

ii. Security processing shall consist of limited personal background inquiries pertaining to verification of name, physical description, marital status, present and former residences, education, employment history, criminal record, personal references, medical fitness, fingerprint classification, and other pertinent information. For non-U.S. citizens, the COTR must request an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (formerly INS) agency check. It is the option of the Office of Security to repeat the security processing on any contract employee at its discretion.

d. Notification of Disqualifying Information

If the Office of Security receives disqualifying information on a contract employee, the COTR will be notified. The COTR, in coordination with the contracting officer, will immediately remove the contract employee from duty requiring access to Departmental facilities or IT systems. Contract employees may be barred from working on the premises of a facility for any of the following:

i. Conviction of a felony of a crime of violence or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.

ii. Falsification of information entered on security screening forms or of other documents submitted to the Department.

iii. Improper conduct once performing on the contract, including criminal, infamous, dishonest, immoral, or notoriously disgraceful conduct or other conduct prejudicial to the Government regardless of whether the conduct directly related to the contract.

iv. Any behavior judged to pose a potential threat to Departmental information systems, personnel, property, or other assets.

NOTE: Failure to comply with the requirements may result in termination of the contract or removal of some contract employees from Department of Commerce facilities or access to IT systems.

e. Access to National Security Information

Compliance with these requirements shall not be construed as providing a contract employee clearance to have access to national security information.

The Contractor shall include the substance of this clause, including this paragraph, in all subcontracts.



**C.9 SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RESOURCES (CAR 1352.239-73) (OCT 2006)**

a. This clause is applicable to all contracts that include information technology resources or services in which the Contractor must have physical or electronic access to DOC's sensitive or classified information, which is contained in systems that directly support the mission of the Agency. For purposes of this clause that term "Sensitive" is defined by the guidance set forth in:

i. The DOC IT Security Program Policy and Minimum Implementation Standards: www.osec.doc.gov/cio;

ii. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-130, Appendix III, Security of Federal Automated Information Resources, which states that there is a "presumption that all general support systems contain some sensitive information."; and

iii. The Computer Security Act of 1987 (P.L. 100-235): www.epic.org/crypto, including the following definition of the term sensitive information "... any information, the loss, misuse, or unauthorized access, to or modification of which could adversely affect the national interest or the, conduct of federal programs, or the privacy to which individuals are entitled under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (The Privacy Act), but which has not been specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order or an Act of Congress to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy." For purposes of this clause, the term "Classified" is defined by the guidance set forth in:

1. The DOC IT Security Program Policy and Minimum Implementation Standards, Section 3.3.1.4: www.osec.doc.gov/cio;

2. The DOC Security Manual, Chapter 18: www.osec.doc.gov/osy.

3. Executive Order 12958, as amended, Classified National Security Information. Classified or national security information is information that has been specifically authorized to be protected from unauthorized disclosure in the interest of national defense or foreign policy under an Executive Order or Act of Congress. Information technology resources include, but are not limited to, hardware, application software, system software, and information (data). Information technology services include, but are not limited to, the management, operation (including input, processing, transmission, and output), maintenance, programming, and system administration of computer systems, networks, and telecommunications systems. The Contractor shall be responsible for implementing sufficient information technology security, to reasonably prevent the compromise of DOC IT resources for all of the Contractor's systems that



are interconnected with a DOC network or DOC systems that are operated by the Contractor.

b. All Contractor personnel performing under this contract and Contractor equipment used to process or store DOC data, or to connect to DOC networks, must comply with the requirements contained in the DOC Information Technology Management Handbook: www.osec.doc.gov/cio.

c. For all Contractor-owned systems for which performance of the contract requires interconnection with a DOC network or that DOC data be stored or processed on them, the Contractor Shall:

i. Provide, implement, and maintain an IT Security Plan. This plan shall describe the processes and procedures that will be followed to ensure appropriate security of IT resources that are developed, processed, or used under this contract. The plan shall describe those parts of the contract to which this clause applies. The Contractor's IT Security Plan shall comply with federal laws that include, but are not limited to, the Computer Security Act of 1987 (40 U.S.C. 1441 et seq.) and the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2946-2961 (2002); Pub. L. No. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135, 2259-2273 (2002). 38 WEEKLY COMP. PRES. DOC. 51, 2174 (Dec. 23, 2002) (providing statement by President George W. Bush regarding Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002). The plan shall meet IT security requirements in accordance with Federal and DOC policies and procedures that include, but are not limited to:

1. OMB Circular A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources, Appendix III, Security of Federal Automated Information Resources;

2. National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication 800-18, Guide for Developing Security Plans for Information Technology Systems; and

3. DOC Procedures and Guidelines in the Information Technology Management Handbook: www.osec.doc.gov/cio.

4. National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM) for classified systems: www.fas.org; and

5. No additional agency or bureau specific guidance.

ii. The Contractor shall continue submitting annually, for DOC Approval, a System Certification and Accreditation package, including the IT Security Plan and a system certification test plan, as outlined in DOC IT Security Program Policy, Sections 3.4 and 3.5. The Certification and Accreditation Package must be consistent with and provide further detail for the security approach contained in the



Offeror's proposal or sealed bid that resulted in the award of this contract and in compliance with the requirements stated in this clause. The Certification and Accreditation Package, as approved by the Contracting Officer, in consultation with the DOC IT Security Manager, or Agency/Bureau IT Security Manager/Officer, shall be incorporated as part of the contract. DOC will use the incorporated IT Security Plan as the basis for certification and accreditation of the Contractor system that will process DOC data or connect to DOC networks. Failure to submit and receive approval of the Certification and Accreditation Package, as outlined in DOC IT Security Program Policy, Sections 3.4 and 3.5 as found at home.osec.doc.gov may result in termination of the contract.

1. The Contractor shall incorporate this clause in all subcontracts that meet the conditions in paragraph (a) of this clause.

C.10 FOREIGN NATIONAL VISITOR AND GUEST ACCESS TO DEPARTMENTAL RESOURCES (CAR 1352.237-74) (December 2006)

The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Department of Commerce Administrative Order 207-12, Foreign National Visitor and Guest Access Program www.easc.noaa.gov and Bureau of Industry and Security Export Administrative Regulations Part 734 found at www.gpo.gov. The Contractor shall provide the Government with notices of foreign nationals requiring access to any Department of Commerce facility or through a Department of Commerce IT system the Contractor shall identify each foreign national who requires access to any Departmental resources, and shall provide all requested information in writing to the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative. The Contractor shall include the substance of this clause, including this paragraph, in all subcontracts.

C.11 Appendices

C.11.1 Appendix A: Current R&D HPCS Architecture

C.11.1.1 A.1 Boulder [see attached]

C.11.1.2 A.2 Gaithersburg [see attached]

C.11.1.3 A.3 Princeton [see attached]



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- C.11.1.4 Software [see attached]

 - C.11.2 Appendix B: Facilities ConOps [as authorized]

 - C.11.3 Appendix C: Environmental Security Architecture [see attached]

 - C.11.4 Appendix D: Government Furnished Equipment and Leased Equipment [see attached]

 - C.11.5 Appendix E: Power Allowance [see attached]

 - C.11.6 Appendix F: Additional Labor Categories [see attached]

 - C.11.7 Appendix G: List of Acronyms [see attached]

 - C.11.8 Appendix H: Glossary [see attached]



SECTION D**PACKAGING AND MARKING****D.1 PACKING FOR DOMESTIC SHIPMENT (CAR 1352.247-70)(MAR 2000)**

Material shall be packed for shipment in such a manner that will ensure acceptance by common carriers and safe delivery at destination. Containers and closures shall comply with the Interstate Commerce Commission regulations, Uniform Freight Classification rules, or regulations of other carriers as applicable to the mode of transportation.

D.2 PACKING AND UNPACKING

The Contractor shall furnish such labor as may be necessary for packing, unpacking, and placement of equipment when in the possession of the Government without additional charge to the Government. Supervision of packing, unpacking, and placement of the equipment shall be furnished by the Contractor without charge to the Government.

D.3 MARKING DELIVERABLES (CAR 1352.247-72)(MAR 2000)

The contract number shall be placed on or adjacent to all exterior mailing or shipping labels of deliverable items called for by the contract except for reports.

Mark deliverables, except for reports, for:

(TO BE PROVIDED AT CONTRACT AWARD)



SECTION E

INSPECTION & ACCEPTANCE

E.1 STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF SYSTEM(S)

In addition to the tests specified below or identified in any Government-provided SOWs, acceptance is contingent upon compliance with all requirements described in Section C and at the task order level including, but not limited to, adherence to Governance documents, Networking Requirements and IT Security Requirements. Acceptance is also contingent upon the delivery and correct functioning of any features offered beyond the requirements. During acceptance testing, to assure performance, the Government may exercise any component or service, confirm the functionality, or confirm the configuration. Acceptance is contingent upon successful completion of system certification and accreditation.

E.1.1 General

As solutions may be delivered at different times and potentially to different locations, all applicable tests will be applied to each component after delivery is complete. At the Government's discretion, at any time any component of the solution may be put back through all phases of acceptance to confirm performance and Resiliency, Reliability, Availability, and Serviceability (RRAS) is at proposed levels. All tests will be performed at the discretion of the Government. Acceptance testing is applicable to all solutions delivered or supported under this contract. These tests may also be applied to replacement equipment, substituted equipment, modified equipment, and equipment supplied as remediation of any contractual shortfall. If any software upgrades are unable to meet test criteria, then the Contractor is required to continue support for the existing software complement until such time as the upgraded software can meet test criteria. All portions of the acceptance tests, unless indicated differently by the Government, will be done during the same 30 consecutive day period within a ninety (90) day window. Should the Contractor fail to meet any of the tests, the contract may be terminated for default or the Government, at its discretion, may negotiate alternative remedies. At the discretion of the Government, failure to meet a performance target may be remedied by providing additional or substitute hardware and software (any source code modifications to the benchmarks other than Class A* must be approved by the Government). If additional or substitute hardware causes a facility impact, the Contractor shall be required to remedy the facility impact. The Government reserves the right to waive testing or change the testing window (either longer or shorter) before accepting a solution.

E.1.2 Areas of Testing



The following describes some of the areas that can be tested during Inspection and Acceptance. Other tests areas may be identified and tested by the Government. The Government may provide more specific testing requirements at the task order level.

E.1.2.1 Availability and RRAS

E.1.2.1.1 Each solution shall meet or exceed the proposed availability.

E.1.2.1.2 The Government may submit applications or perform tests that have been shown to be problematic on other systems.

E.1.2.1.3 The Government, at its discretion, may provide a series of carefully monitored tests that may include up to twenty-five (25) individual batch jobs (complete with input data) to run on a Contractor-provided HPCS. These tests will be monitored for end-to-end success. Complete or partial failure of any intermediate step will result in declaring the test to have failed. Success will be determined as the number of successful tests divided by the number of attempted tests in a thirty (30) day period per subsystem. This ratio must be equal or greater than the proposed availability during the acceptance test period as well as during the life of the contract. Failures due to null time, application errors, or data errors will not be included in either the numerator or denominator of the above ratio.

E.1.2.2 Performance

Each solution shall meet all proposed performance specifications. The Government reserves the right to verify that performance is being met anytime, even after acceptance. Remedies as described in Section F apply to these post-acceptance performance tests.

E.1.2.2.1 Benchmark Performance

E.1.2.2.1.1 All of the benchmarks, provided by the Government, must meet the performance criteria proposed by the Contractor. The interactive benchmarks will be run and tested by the Government. Failure to meet the performance criteria may not be remedied by performing any code modifications other than Class A to the benchmark codes unless these modifications have been approved by the Government. Other remedies include substitution of hardware that is approved by the Government or by providing additional hardware as described in Section F.

E.1.2.2.1.2 The benchmark performance will be tested during the acceptance test period. The performance results will be used as the baseline metric throughout the contract period or until the installed system is replaced or upgraded.



E.1.2.2.2 Disk I/O Performance

When possible, all performance specifications indicated in the Contractor's proposal will be verified. Any failures to meet the specifications shall be remedied or result in failure of the acceptance test. Consistent disk I/O performance is required to meet the run time variability standard.

E.1.2.2.3 Hierarchical Storage Management System (HSMS) Performance

All of the HSMS benchmarks shall meet or exceed the proposed performance. The bandwidth to and from the HSMS will be tested by the Government during the acceptance test period. The ability to correctly retrieve files will be tested as well. Any failures of these tests will result in failure of the acceptance test. The Government will attempt to store and retrieve enough data to involve all components of the HSMS associated with a subsystem.

E.1.2.3 Reproducibility

E.1.2.3.1 Codes that are known to provide bit reproducible results may be run at the Government's discretion. If the codes fail to produce the same results for repeated runs in an environment where bit reproducibility is expected on the same type of hardware/software, then the acceptance test is deemed to be failed until the Contractor can provide a remedy. Should the first instance of the test not be performed within twenty (20) days, the Government will extend the acceptance test period one day for each day of delay or forego the test entirely.

E.1.2.3.2 The Government requires that all of its codes will get correct answers and will be able to reproduce results for the entire duration of the contract.

E.1.2.3.3 In the event that a bit reproducibility error is found, a root cause and remedy is expected in order to complete acceptance.

E.1.2.4 Data Integrity

E.1.2.4.1 Government data shall have integrity for the duration of the contract. End-to-end integrity of data transfers is required. In addition, the Government is concerned with silent data corruption. As practical tests may not be possible, the Government may verify that reasonable checks, tools, configurations, etc., have been deployed by the Contractor.

E.1.2.4.2 In the event that a data integrity problem is found, the Contractor shall identify and demonstrate root cause to the Government. The Contractor shall provide a remedy in order to complete acceptance.



E.1.2.5 Run Time Variability

E.1.2.5.1 Benchmark and/or test codes will be monitored for run-time variability. The wall clock execution time for each code will be monitored and recorded over the course of acceptance. Run time variability standard requires these codes, of production quality with fixed input data, to execute within +/- 5% of average wall clock time. Codes are varied and may require access to massive data sets, thousands of processors, etc. The run time variability standard will not apply to benchmark/test codes that execute in less than thirty (30) seconds or longer than four (4) hours. A sample of size of not less than thirty (30) runs is required to establish statistical significance.

E.1.2.5.2 The run time variability standard for application codes using "live" data sets will be 10% for codes within one standard deviation of the mean. A sample of size of not less than thirty (30) runs is required to establish statistical significance. The live data run time variability standard will not apply to codes that execute in less than thirty (30) seconds or longer than eight (8) hours.

E.1.2.6 Acceptance Test Spreadsheet

The COTR, or an appropriate designee, will construct and maintain during the acceptance tests a spreadsheet that shows all metrics designated by the acceptance test criteria and record all events, and the diagnosed causes, contributing to these results. This spreadsheet will be provided at the task order level. The Contractor will maintain complete and accurate records indicating component (hardware/software/infrastructure) failures, degraded performance, repair/maintenance service and a record of any Government direction influencing acceptance tests. The COTR, selected NOAA staff (including affiliates and contract staff) involved in the acceptance testing, and Contractor representatives shall meet routinely during the acceptance test period to agree on event categorizations and descriptions, and to validate the acceptance test criteria metrics.

E.2 ACCEPTANCE PHASES

E.2.1 Contractor's Proposed Solutions

The Government solely owns the responsibility of acceptance. At the Government's discretion, the Contractor's test plans may or may not be used to augment the Government's test plans.

E.2.2 Entry into Acceptance

In order to enter into acceptance testing the following shall be completed:



E.2.2.1 The solution shall have appropriate authorization from the Contractor Officer and/or Contracting Officer's Technical Representative;

E.2.2.2 The solution shall have appropriate authorization from the ISSO;

E.2.2.3 The solution shall have a fully approved configuration management ticket;

E.2.2.4 The solution has been delivered, installed and configured;

E.2.2.5 The system has gone through appropriate diagnostic testing to confirm proper performance;

E.2.2.6 All necessary changes to the Governance documents have been proposed;

E.2.2.7 Required documentation per the Governance documents (such as inventory, facilities drawings, etc.) have been provided;

E.2.2.8 Any software that is required is installed and confirmed to be functioning;

E.2.2.9 Unless otherwise indicated by the Government, the Contractor must provide the ability to monitor all performance measures that have been proposed;

E.2.2.10 The Government's questions regarding configuration and documentation have been satisfied;

E.2.2.11 Confirmation that all contractually required and proposed performance levels are met. This includes Contractor provided facilities (such as power and cooling) estimates; and

E.2.2.12 At the Government's discretion, the Contractor shall provide a Live Test Demonstration. The Government shall provide the list of tests in the event that a Live Test Demonstration (LTD) is requested.

E.2.3 Acceptance Testing

E.2.3.1 The system must be in use, with a minimum 90% of resources engaged at any time.

E.2.3.2 During the first fifteen (15) days of acceptance the Government may elect to restrict system use to benchmark codes. Multiple copies of these codes will be run in a random manner so as to employ all resources in an unpredictable manner.

E.2.3.3 During the second fifteen (15) days of acceptance, users will be able to run their workload on the system. The Contractor shall not be held responsible for user-caused system faults. The



Government will terminate user access during acceptance should there be more than two system-wide user-caused faults or other disruption that causes utilization to fall below 90%.

E.2.3.4 Unless indicated differently by the Government, acceptance testing will be done during the same thirty (30) consecutive day period within a ninety (90) day window.

E.2.3.5 During the thirty (30) consecutive day period all contractual and proposed performance and RRAS measures will be met.

E.2.3.6 The Contractor shall be required to monitor performance and provide documentation on results.

E.2.3.7 To assure reproducibility of the HPCS, at the Government's request, the Contractor shall provide a mechanism to dual-run or otherwise assure reproducibility.

E.2.4 Exiting Acceptance

E.2.4.1 All documentation, logs, scripts, programs, output relevant to the acceptance test is captured and archived.

E.2.4.2 All performance and RRAS requirements has been met or exceeded and have been confirmed by the ACOTR or COTR to the Contracting Officer.

E.2.4.3 The Contracting Officer will lead and complete negotiations with regards to any issues during the acceptance tests.

E.2.4.4 The Contracting Officer sends a letter to the Contractor accepting the system.

E.3 ACCEPTANCE DOCUMENTATION AND DATE OF ACCEPTANCE

At the successful conclusion of the acceptance test the following documents will be produced: (1) Letter of Acceptance, and (2) Acceptance Test Report.

E.3.1 Letter of Acceptance

The Letter of Acceptance for each subsystem is authored by the Contractor, and signed by both the Contractor and the Contracting Officer, upon successful completion of the acceptance test and retroactively establishing the first day of the successful thirty (30) day performance period.

E.3.2 Acceptance Test Report

E.3.2.1 Co-authored by the Contractor and the COTR and completed within three (3) working days of execution of the Letter of Acceptance, the acceptance test report documents the events of the



evaluation period and provides both a subjective assessment of the subsystem and an objective tabulation of acceptance test period events and results. Objective information to be included in the report are: the final values for all acceptance criteria metrics, a copy of the acceptance test spreadsheet, and a description of all events (including null time periods), as well as root causes for and remedies of those events.

E.3.2.2 Charges shall commence on the first day of the successful performance period. The Government shall not accept equipment and shall not pay charges until the standard of performance is met.

E.4 DELAY OF START OF ACCEPTANCE TESTING

If necessary, the Government may delay the start of the acceptance period, but such a delay shall not exceed thirty (30) consecutive days. Should the Government delay the start of the acceptance period, rental and maintenance charges shall accrue for that period of time between the installation date and the start of the acceptance period and shall be paid upon completion of the successful acceptance period.

E.5 INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE

E.5.1 The Contracting Officer or the duly authorized representative will perform inspection and acceptance of supplies and services to be provided under this contract.

E.5.2 Inspection and acceptance will be performed at times and places specified in the task orders and technical direction.

Class A*

Class A modifications are those required to allow a benchmark to run to completion correctly if, without such changes to source code, the benchmark will "fail" either by exiting prior to completion or producing incorrect answers. Class A modifications do not include any changes to source solely for performance. Since there may be many causes for such changes (e.g. existing non-standard language usage within the application, workarounds required for compiler bugs, etc.), the Government cannot state categorically that such modifications will not be evaluated without some sort of risk factor assigned. Still, it is the Government's desire to consider such changes as "essentially unmodified" code with no negative impact on evaluation.

Among the types of "changes" which will be taken as Class A are:



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- Use of commercially supported libraries which are bid as part of the offering and require no changes to benchmark source code or introduction of wrapper subroutines;
 - Compiler command lines with performance-specific options including, but not limited to, automatic parallelization;
 - Automatic parallelization and multitasking mediated through the operating system; and
 - Use of commercially available and supported source pre-processors that are bid as part of the offering.



SECTION F

DELIVERIES OR PERFORMANCE

F.1 CONSIDERATION

Each component of the high performance computing system (HPCS) shall meet the availability requirements cited in Section C.6.10, RRAS Requirements, and any additional requirements identified at the task order level. If the Contractor does not meet the availability requirements, then consideration is owed to the Government. The Government may, at its discretion, choose new equipment as consideration at no additional cost to the Government, reduce invoice payment(s) by the amount of consideration owed, or both. The Contractor is only responsible for meeting RRAS requirements on equipment that it delivers or supports.

F.1.1 System Downtime

System downtime is defined in Section C, Appendix H, Glossary.

During any month, the available time on a system is defined as the length of the month multiplied by the proposed availability level for that system. For example, in October there are thirty-one (31) days in the month. Multiply thirty-one (31) days by twenty-four (24) hours in the day to arrive at 744 hours in October. If the availability requirement is 97%, then the uptime requirement is 721.68 hours for the month of October.

F.1.2 Period of Downtime

Downtime shall begin accruing if the system availability does not meet the criteria in Section C.6.10, RRAS Requirements, and any additional requirements identified at the task order level. System availability shall be determined monthly. The Government reserves the right to define, mark, calculate and determine system availability.

F.1.3 Consideration for System Downtime

If the system(s) remains inoperable and cannot perform the workload due to an equipment or software malfunction through no fault or negligence of the Government, resulting in performance below the availability requirements of Section C.6.10, RRAS Requirements, and any additional requirements identified at the task order level, the Government is entitled to consideration. Consideration shall be calculated based upon the purchased price of the system(s) including maintenance and support services. In the case of a leased system, the lease price plus the maintenance and support. If, during any given month, the system(s) availability falls below the level specified in



Section C.6.10, RRAS Requirements, and any additional requirements identified at the task order level, the Government shall make monthly payments based upon system availability. For example, if leased system(s) were only operational 95% of the required time during a specific month because of system downtime, the Government would pay 95% of the total expenditure profile for that month. In the case of a purchased system, using the same scenario, the Government would apply the amount of consideration owed against 1/36* of the system(s) purchase price, inclusive of maintenance and support.

*The Government has determined that a system(s) useful life is thirty-six (36) months for the purposes of calculating consideration owed.

F.2 PLACE OF DELIVERIES

The Contractor shall be responsible for transportation to, and installation of all hardware and software at the following address:

As specified in individual Task/Delivery Orders.

F.3 DELIVERY/INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

The Government reserves the right to delay any installation by up to thirty (30) days, at no additional cost to the Government, provided that:

a. The Contractor shall receive written notice from the Contracting Officer thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled installation date.

b. Any installation delays beyond thirty (30) days shall be mutually agreed to by the Contractor and the Government.

The Government shall provide the Contractor with access to the site for purposes of installing the equipment prior to the scheduled installation date. The Contractor shall specify in writing in its proposal the time required for such access.

F.4 TIME OF DELIVERY

As specified in individual Task/Delivery Orders

F.5 SCHEDULE OF DELIVERABLES

The following is a schedule of all deliverables, including administrative deliverables, required during the period of performance of this contract:



<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>	<u>DELIVER TO</u>
TBD	Deliverables required by CAR and FAR clauses	TBD	Per the terms of the contract	
TBD	Other Deliverables	TBD	Specified in individual Task/Delivery Orders	

F.6 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE (CAR 1352.215-70)(MAR 2000)

The period of performance of this contract is four (4) years from date of contract award through TBD. If the four (4) year option is exercised, the period of performance shall be extended through the end of that option period. The one (1) year transition option may be exercised at any time during the life of the contract.



SECTION G**CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION DATA****G.1 CONTRACTING OFFICER'S AUTHORITY (CAR 1352.201-70)(MAR 2000)**

The Contracting Officer is the only person authorized to make or approve any changes in any of the requirements of this contract and notwithstanding any provisions contained elsewhere in this contract, the said authority remains solely in a Contracting Officer. In the event the Contractor makes any changes at the direction of any person other than the Contracting Officer, the change will be considered to have been made without authority and no adjustment will be made in the contract terms and conditions, including price.

G.2 CONTRACTING OFFICER'S TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE (COTR)(CAR 1352.201-71)(MAR 2000)

a. (To be designated at time of contract award) is hereby designated as the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR). The COTR may be changed at any time by the Government without prior notice to the Contractor by a unilateral modification to the Contract. The COTR is located at:

Address: TO BE DESIGNATED AT TIME OF AWARD
Telephone No.:
Facsimile Address:

b. The responsibilities and limitations of the COTR are as follows:

i. The COTR is responsible for the technical aspects of the project and serves as technical liaison with the Contractor. The COTR is also responsible for the final inspection and acceptance of all reports, and such other responsibilities as may be specified in the Contract.

ii. The COTR is not authorized to make any commitments or otherwise obligate the Government or authorize any changes that affect the Contract price, terms or conditions. Any Contractor request for changes shall be referred to the Contracting Officer directly or through the COTR. No such changes shall be made without the expressed prior authorization of the Contracting Officer. The Contracting Officer may designate assistant COTR(s) to act for the COTR by naming such assistant(s) in writing and transmitting a copy of such designation to the Contractor.



G.3 PLACEMENT OF ORDERS (CAR 1352.216-76)(MARCH 2000)

a. The Contractor shall provide services/supplies under this contract only as directed in Task/Delivery Orders. In accordance with FAR 16.505, each order will include:

- i. Date of Order;
- ii. Contract number and order number;
- iii. Item number and description, quantity, and unit price or ceiling price;
- iv. Delivery or performance date;
- v. Place of delivery or performance (including consignee);
- vi. Packaging, packing, and shipping instructions, if any;
- vii. Accounting and appropriation data;
- viii. Method of payment and payment office, if not specified in the contract; and
- ix. Any other pertinent information.

b. In accordance with FAR 52.216-18, ORDERING, the following individuals (or activities) are authorized to place orders against this contract:

- i. Any duly appointed NOAA/Acquisition and Grants Office, Contracting Officer acting within the scope of their authority.

G.4 INVOICE REQUIREMENTS

a. The Contractor shall submit invoices in triplicate directly to the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative. The Government will attach to the invoice a signed copy of the inspection report or for certification of receipt and acceptance on a copy of the Contractor's bill. To constitute a proper invoice, the invoice must include, as a minimum, the following information and attached documentation:

- i. Name of the business concern, invoice number and invoice date;
 - ii. Contract number;
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iii. Description, price and quantity of goods and services actually delivered or rendered;

iv. Shipping and payment terms;

v. Name (where practical), title, telephone number, and complete mailing address of responsible official to whom payment is to be sent;

vi. Other substantiating documentation or information as required by the contract;

b. To assist the Government in making timely payments, the Contractor is requested to furnish the following additional information either on the invoice or on an attachment to the invoice:

i. Date(s) that property was delivered or services rendered;

ii. Serial Numbers of property delivered;

iii. Address where property was delivered or services were rendered; and

iv. Credits (if applicable)

G.5 ADDITIONAL INVOICE AND PAYMENT PROVISIONS

The Contractor shall render invoices (3 copies) for basic monthly charges at the end of the month for which the charges accrue. Payments for rental and services of less than one month's duration shall be prorated at 1/30th of the basic monthly charge for each calendar day.

Any credits due the Government may be applied against the Contractor's invoices with appropriate information attached.

G.6 PRICING OF ADJUSTMENTS

When costs are a factor in any determination of contract price adjustment pursuant to the Changes clause or any other clauses of this contract, such costs shall be in accordance with the contract cost principles and procedures in Part 31 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 CFR Part 31) in effect on the date of this contract.

G.7 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED PROPERTY (CAR 1352.245-70)(MAR 2000)

The Government will provide the following item(s) of Government property to the Contractor for use in the performance of this contract.



This property shall be used and maintained by the Contractor in accordance with provisions of the Government Property clause included in this contract.

Item No.	Description	Quantity
SEE SECTION C, APPENDIX D, GOVERNMENT FURNISHED EQUIPMENT (GFE)		



SECTION H**SPECIAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS****H.1 PRINTING (CAR 1352.208-70)(MAR 2000)**

Unless otherwise specified in this contract, the Contractor shall not engage in, or subcontract for, any printing (as that term is defined in Title I of the Government Printing and Binding Regulations in effect on the effective date of this contract) in connection with performing under this contract. Provided, however, that performing a requirement under this contract involving the duplicating of less than 5,000 units of only one page, or less than 25,000 units in the aggregate of multiple pages, such pages not exceeding a maximum image size of 10 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 14 and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, will not be deemed printing.

**H.2 RESTRICTIONS ON FUTURE CONTRACTING (CAR 1352.209-70)
(MARCH 2000)**

Offerors are specifically cautioned that any firm(s) receiving a contract award to provide the system integrator services/supplies described herein will be prohibited from competing for or receiving a contract to perform as a result of work generated by the performance of this contract.

H.3 ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST (CAR 1352.209-71) (MAR 2000)

a. The Contractor warrants that, to the best of the Contractor's knowledge and belief, there are no relevant facts or circumstances which would give rise to an organizational conflict of interest, as defined in FAR Subpart 9.5, or that the Contractor has disclosed all such relevant information.

b. The Contractor agrees that if an actual or potential organizational conflict of interest is discovered after award, the Contractor will make a full disclosure in writing to the Contracting Officer. This disclosure shall include a description of actions which the Contractor has taken or proposes to take, after consultation with the Contracting Officer, to avoid, mitigate, or neutralize the actual or potential conflict.

c. Remedies. The Contracting Officer may terminate this contract for convenience, in whole or in part, if it deems such termination necessary to avoid an organizational conflict of interest.



If the Contractor was aware of a potential organizational conflict of interest prior to award or discovered an actual or potential conflict after award and did not disclose or misrepresented relevant information to the Contracting Officer, the Government may terminate the contract for default, debar the Contractor from Government contracting, or pursue such other remedies as may be permitted by law or this contract.

d. The Contractor further agrees to insert provisions which shall conform substantially to the language of this clause, including the paragraph c., in any subcontract or consultant agreement hereunder.

H.4 RESTRICTIONS AGAINST DISCLOSURE (CAR 1352.209-72) (MAR 2000)

a. The Contractor agrees, in the performance of this contract, to keep the information furnished by the Government and designated by the Contracting Officer or Contracting Officer's Technical Representative in the strictest confidence. The Contractor also agrees not to publish or otherwise divulge such information in whole or in part, in any manner or form, nor to authorize or permit others to do so, taking such reasonable measures as are necessary to restrict access to such information while in the Contractor's possession, to those employees needing such information to perform the work provided herein, i.e., in a "need to know" basis. The Contractor agrees to immediately notify the Contracting Officer in writing in the event that the Contractor determines or has reason to suspect breach of this requirement.

b. The Contractor agrees that it will not disclose any information described in subsection a. to any persons or individual unless prior written approval is obtained from the Contracting Officer, the Contractor agrees to insert the substance of this clause in any consultant agreement of subcontract hereunder.

H.5 COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAWS (CAR 1352.209-73) (MAR 2000)

The Contractor shall comply with all applicable laws and rules and regulations having the force of law which deal with or relate to performance hereunder or the employment by the Contractor of the employees.

H.6 TASK ORDERS (CAR 1352.216-78) (MARCH 2000)

a. In task order contracts all work shall be initiated only by issuance of a fully executed task order issued by the Contracting Officer. The work to be performed under these task orders must be within the scope of the contract. The Government is only liable for



labor hours expended under the terms and conditions of this contract to the extent that a fully executed task order has been issued and covers the required work. Charges for any work not authorized shall be disallowed.

b. The COTR shall initiate the task order implementation process by preparing a statement of requirements or objectives to be achieved by completion of the task order in the form of a Task Objective Statement (TOS). The TOS will contain a detailed description of the functional or other objectives to be achieved, a schedule for completion of the task order, and deliverables to be provided by the task order.

c. The Contractor shall acknowledge receipt of each TOS and shall develop and forward to the COTR within ten (10) calendar days a proposed Task Management Plan (TMP) for accomplishing the assigned task within the period specified. The TMP shall define the scope, specific tasks and actions which are proposed to be taken by the Contractor to complete the task order, and cost estimate/proposed price. The TMP shall provide the Contractor's interpretation of the scope of work, a description of the technical approach, and a work schedule.

d. Based upon the contents of the TMP, the Contractor and the Government shall negotiate the number of hours and labor mix required to complete the task order, any changes in the scope of the work to be performed, the schedule or the deliverables to be provided in the task order.

e. Within five (5) working days following the conclusion of the final negotiations related to the TMP, the Contractor shall submit a revised TMP which reflects the negotiated agreement.

f. Task orders will be considered fully executed upon signature of the Contracting Officer. The Contractor shall begin work on the task order in accordance with the effective date indicated on the task order.

g. Following execution of the task order, technical clarifications may be issued in writing at any time by the COTR to amplify, or provide additional guidance to the Contractor regarding performance of the task order. The Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer of any instructions or guidance the Contractor considers to be a change to the task order which will impact the cost, schedule or deliverables content of the baseline work plan. In cases where technical instructions or other events may dictate a change from the baseline, task orders may be formally modified in writing by the Contracting Officer to reflect modifications to tasking. The Contractor is responsible for revising the work plan to reflect task order modifications within five (5) working days following negotiation or issuance of a modification of the task order.



h. Task orders may be placed during the period of performance of the contract, as identified in Section F.7. Labor rates applicable to hours expended in performance of an order will be the contract rates that are in effect at the time the task order is executed. Any order issued during the period of performance of this contract and not completed within that time shall be governed by the contract terms to the same extent as if the order were completed during the contract's period of performance, including the contract and individual order ceiling prices. Work performed on such orders after the end of the contract's period of performance will continue to be charged at the last effective rates.

i. All task orders issued within the effective period of performance of the contract shall be completed within the period of performance identified in the task order. All task orders issued under this contract shall be completed no later than twelve months after the expiration date of the contract.

H.7 UNPRICED TASK ORDERS

If the Government requires supplies and/or services under Section B and firm fixed prices for the work are not readily ascertainable when an order is to be issued, the Contracting Officer will issue a unilateral order for the supplies and/or services being procured which shall remain in effect until superseded by a bilateral modification to the contract. Each such unilateral order shall specify the estimated price ceiling and the desired delivery schedule for the work being ordered. The maximum liability shall be the estimated amount necessary to cover the Contractor's requirements for funds before award of the bilateral modification. This maximum liability of the Government shall not exceed fifty (50) percent of the estimated cost of the task order unless approved in advance by the official that authorized the unpriced task order. The Government's desired delivery schedule shall apply unless the Contractor notifies the Contracting Officer, in writing, not later than thirty (30) days after receipt of each unilateral order, that the proposed delivery schedule is not acceptable and proposes an alternate delivery schedule for the work called for in the subject unpriced order. The Contractor shall be obligated to meet such proposed alternate delivery schedule unless a superseding delivery schedule is established in the bilateral modification. The estimated price specified in the unilateral order shall be the limitation on the Government's obligation to pay for the work ordered until a firm fixed price and delivery schedule are negotiated by the Contractor and the Contracting Officer, unless such estimated price has been increased, in writing, by the Contracting Officer. The estimated price specified in each



unilateral order shall not be used as a billing price for delivered items. The Contractor shall submit to the Contracting Officer a price proposal, and, when applicable, price lists and supporting cost or pricing data for the work to be performed.

H.8 INSURANCE COVERAGE (CAR 1352.228-70) (MAR 2000)

Pursuant to the clause "Insurance - Work on a Government Installation (FAR 52.228-5), "the Contractor will be required to present evidence to show, as a minimum, the amounts of insurance coverage indicated below:

a. Workers Compensation and Employer's Liability. The Contractor is required to comply with applicable federal and state workers' compensation and occupational disease statutes. If occupational diseases are not compensable under those statutes, they shall be covered under the employer's liability section of the insurance policy, except when contract operations are so commingled with a Contractor's commercial operations that it would not be practical to require this coverage. Employer's liability coverage of at least \$100,000 shall be required, except in states with exclusive or monopolistic funds that do not permit worker's compensation to be written by private carriers.

b. General Liability.

i. The Contractor shall have bodily injury liability insurance coverage written on the comprehensive form of policy of at least \$500,000 per occurrence.

ii. Property Damage Liability Insurance shall be required in the amount of \$20,000.

c. Automobile Liability. The Contractor shall have automobile liability insurance written on the comprehensive form of policy. The policy shall provide for bodily injury and property damage liability covering the operation of all automobiles used in connection with performing the contract. Policies covering automobiles operated in the United States shall provide coverage of at least \$200,000 per person and \$500,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and \$20,000 per occurrence for property damage.

d. Aircraft Public and Passenger Liability. When aircraft are used in connection with performing the contract, the Contractor shall have aircraft public and passenger liability insurance. Coverage shall be at least \$200,000 per person and \$500,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, other than passenger liability, and \$200,000 per occurrence for property damage. Coverage for passenger liability bodily injury shall be at least \$200,000 multiplied by the number of seats or passengers, whichever is greater.



e. Vessel Liability. When contract performance involves use of vessels, the Contracting Officer shall require, as determined by the agency, vessel collision liability and protection and indemnity liability insurance.

H.9 DEDUCTIBLES UNDER REQUIRED INSURANCE COVERAGE (CAR 1352.228-72) (MAR 2000)

When the Government is injured, wholly or partially as a result of the Contractor's actions and such actions are covered by the insurance required by 1352.228-70, INSURANCE COVERAGE, the Government is entitled to recover from the Contractor the full amount of any such injury attributable to the Contractor regardless of any deductible. The Contracting Officer may offset the amount of recovery against any payment due to the Contractor.

H.10 HARMLESS FROM LIABILITY (CAR 1352.233-70) (MAR 2000)

The Contractor shall hold and save the Government, its officers, agents, and employees harmless from liability of any nature or kind, including costs and expenses to which they may be subject, for or on account of any or all suits or damages of any character whatsoever resulting from injuries or damages sustained by any person or persons or property by virtue of performance of this contract, arising or resulting from the fault, negligence, wrongful act or wrongful omission of the Contractor, or any subcontractor, their employees, and agents.

H.11 KEY PERSONNEL (CAR 1352.237-73) (MAR 2000)

a. The Contractor shall assign to this contract the following Key Personnel:

(Name) Position) (to be completed at award)

b. The Contractor shall obtain the consent of the Contracting Officer prior to making Key Personnel substitutions. Replacements for Key Personnel must possess qualifications equal to or exceeding the qualifications of the personnel being replaced specified.

c. Requests for changes shall be submitted to the Contracting Officer at least 15 working days prior to making any permanent substitutions. The request should contain a detailed explanation of the circumstances necessitating the proposed substitutions, complete resumes for the proposed substitutes, and any additional information requested by the Contracting Officer. The Contracting Officer will



notify the Contractor within ten (10) working days after receipt of all required information of the decision on substitutions. The contract will be modified to reflect any approved changes.

H.12 REGULATORY NOTICE (CAR 1352.252-70) (MAR 2000)

Contractors are advised that certain provisions and clauses identified with a Commerce Acquisition Regulation (CAR) notation for identification purposes, have not yet been incorporated into the CAR. However, all of these items are binding for this acquisition and will eventually be contained in the CAR at Part 13 of Title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

H.13 NOTICE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF DELAYS

In the event the Contractor encounters difficulty in meeting performance requirements, or when it anticipates difficulty in complying with the contract delivery schedule or dates, or whenever the Contractor has knowledge that any actual or potential situation is delaying or threatens to delay the timely performance of this contract, the Contractor shall immediately notify the Contracting Officer and the COTR, in writing, giving pertinent details, provided, that this data shall be informational only in character and that this provision shall not be construed as a waiver by the Government of any delivery schedule or data or of any rights or remedies provided by law or under this contract.

H.14 CONTRACTOR COMMITMENTS, WARRANTIES AND REPRESENTATIONS

Any written commitment by the Contractor within the scope of this contract shall be binding upon the Contractor. Failure of the Contractor to fulfill any such commitment shall render the Contractor liable for liquidated or other damages due to the Government under the terms of this contract. For the purpose of this contract, a written commitment by the Contractor is limited to the proposal submitted by the Contractor, and to specific written modifications to the proposal. Written commitments by the Contractor are further defined as including:

- a. Any warranty or representation made by the Contractor in a proposal as to hardware or software performance; total systems performance; other physical, design, or functioning characteristics of a machine, software package, or system, or installation date;
 - b. Any warranty or representation made by the Contractor concerning the characteristics or specifications accompanying or referred to in a proposal; and
-



c. Any modification of or affirmation or representation relating to the above which is made by the Contractor in or during the course of negotiations, whether or not incorporated into a formal amendment to the proposal in question.

H.15 ENGINEERING CHANGES

a. After contract award, the Government may solicit, and the Contractor is encouraged to propose, independently, engineering changes to the equipment, software specifications, or other requirements of this contract. These changes may be proposed to save money, to improve performance, to save energy, or to satisfy increased data processing requirements. If the proposed changes are acceptable to both parties, the Contractor shall submit a price change proposal to the Government for evaluation. Those proposed engineering changes that are acceptable to the Government will be processed as modifications to the contract. These changes shall be submitted to the Configuration Management Process and approval obtained from by the Configuration Management Review Board prior to acceptance of the proposed Engineering Change.

b. This clause applies only to those proposed changes identified by the Contractor, as a proposal submitted pursuant to the provisions of this clause. As a minimum, the following information shall be submitted by the Contractor with each proposal:

1. A description of the difference between the existing contract requirement and the proposed change, and the comparative advantages and disadvantages of each;

2. Itemized requirements of the contract which must be changed if the proposal is adopted, and the proposed revision to the contract for each such change;

3. An estimate of the changes in performance and cost, if any, that will result from adoption of the proposal;

4. An evaluation of the effects the proposed change would have on collateral costs to the Government, such as Government-furnished property costs, costs of related items, and costs of maintenance and operation; and

5. A statement of the time by which the change order adopting the proposal must be issued so as to obtain the maximum benefits of the changes during the remainder of this contract. Also, any effect on the contract completion time or delivery schedule shall be identified.



c. Engineering change proposals submitted to the Contracting Officer shall be processed expeditiously. The Government shall not be liable for proposal preparation costs or any delay in acting upon any proposal submitted pursuant to this clause. The Contractor has the right to withdraw, in whole or in part, any engineering change proposal not accepted by the Government within the period specified in the engineering change proposal. The decision of the Contracting Officer as to the acceptance of any such proposal under this contract shall be final and shall not be subject to the "Disputes" clause of this contract.

d. The Contracting Officer may accept any engineering change proposal submitted pursuant to this clause by giving the Contractor written notice thereof. This written notice may be given by issuance of a modification to this contract. Unless and until a modification is executed to incorporate an engineering change proposal under this contract, the Contractor shall remain obligated to perform in accordance with the terms of the existing contract.

e. If an engineering change proposal submitted pursuant to this clause is accepted and applied to this contract, an equitable adjustment in the contract price and to any other affected provisions of this contract shall be made in accordance with this clause and other applicable clauses of this contract. When the cost of performance of this contract is increased or decreased as a result of the change, the equitable adjustment increasing or decreasing the contract price shall be in accordance with the Changes clause rather than under this clause, but the resulting contract modification shall state that it is made pursuant to this clause.

f. The Contractor is requested to identify specifically any information contained in the engineering change proposal which the Contractor considers confidential or proprietary and which the Contractor prefers not be disclosed to the public. The identification of information as confidential or proprietary is for informational purposes only and shall not be binding on the Government to prevent disclosure of such information. Offerors are advised that such information may be subject to release upon request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

H.16 SUBCONTRACT REPORTS (DOC)

Pursuant to FAR 52.219-9, the contractor shall submit subcontracting reports in connection with performance of this contract using the Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (eSRS) at www.esrs.gov. The contractor shall follow the general instructions provided on the eSRS website.



H.17 SUBCONTRACTING PLAN APPROVAL

The Subcontracting Plan submitted by _____* and dated _____* has been approved by the Government and is incorporated herein and made a part of this contract. Any modifications to this contract or modifications in excess of \$500,000 (\$1,000,000 for construction) will require modification of the Subcontracting Plan.

* To be completed at time of award

H.18 REPRESENTATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS, AND OTHER STATEMENTS OF OFFEROR

In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 25.204-1(b), the completed and submitted "Representations, Certifications, and Other Statements of Offeror" are hereby incorporated by reference in this resulting contract.

H.19 UNAUTHORIZED INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

a. The Contractor will not accept any instructions issued by any other person employed by the U.S. Government other than the Contracting Officer or the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) acting within the limits of their authority.

b. No information, other than that which may be contained in an authorized modification to this contract will be considered as grounds for deviation from any stipulations of the contract's terms and conditions.

H.20 EVALUATION OF CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE

a. Interim and final evaluations of Contractor performance will be prepared on this contract in accordance with FAR 42.15. The final performance evaluation will be prepared at the time of completion of work. In addition to the final evaluation, at least one interim evaluation will be prepared.

b. Interim and final evaluations will be provided to the Contractor as soon as practicable after completion of the evaluation. The Contractor will be permitted thirty (30) days to review the document and to submit additional information or a rebutting statement. If agreement cannot be reached between the parties, the matter will be referred to an individual one level above the Contracting Officer, whose decision will be final.



c. Copies of the evaluations, Contractor responses, and review comments, if any, will be retained as part of the contract file, and may be used to support future award decisions.

H.21 NONPERSONAL SERVICES AND INHERENTLY GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS

a. Pursuant to FAR 37.1, no personal services shall be performed under this contract. All work requirements shall flow only from the Project Officer to the Contractor's Project Manager. No Contractor employee will be directly supervised by the Government. All individual Contractor employee assignments, and daily work direction, shall be given by the applicable Contractor employee supervisor. If the Contractor believes any Government action or communication has been given that would create a personal services relationship between the Government and any Contractor employee, the Contractor shall promptly notify the Contracting Officer of this communication or action.

b. Pursuant to FAR 7.5, the Contractor shall not perform any inherently Governmental actions under this contract. No Contractor employee shall hold him or herself out to be a Government employee, agent, or representative. No Contractor employee shall state orally or in writing at any time that he or she is acting on behalf of the Government. In all communications with third parties in connection with this contract, Contractor employees shall identify themselves as Contractor employees and specify the name of the company for which they work. In all communications with other Government Contractors in connection with this contract, the Contractor employee shall state that they have no authority to in any way change the contract and that if the other Contractor believes this communication to be a direction to change their contract, they should notify the Contracting Officer for that contract and not carry out the direction until a clarification has been issued by the Contracting Officer.

c. The Contractor shall insure that all of its employees working on this contract are informed of the substance of this article. Nothing in this article shall limit the Government's rights in any way under the other provisions of the contract, including those related to the Government's right to inspect and accept the services to be performed under this contract. The substance of this article shall be included in all subcontracts at any tier.



SECTION I
CONTRACT CLAUSES
I.1 CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FAR 52.252-2) (FEB 1998)

This contract incorporates one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. Also, the full text of a clause may be accessed electronically at this address: www.arnet.gov/far.

FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (48 CFR CHAPTER 1)

CLAUSE NUMBER	DATE	TITLE
52.202-1	JUL 2004	DEFINITIONS
52.203-3	APR 1984	GRATUITIES
52.203-5	APR 1984	COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES
52.203-6	SEP 2006	RESTRICTIONS ON SUBCONTRACTOR SALES TO THE GOVERNMENT
52.203-7	JUL 1995	ANTI-KICKBACK PROCEDURES
52.203-8	JAN 1997	CANCELLATION, RESCISSION, AND RECOVERY OF FUNDS FOR ILLEGAL OR IMPROPER ACTIVITY
52.203-10	JAN 1997	PRICE OR FEE ADJUSTMENT FOR ILLEGAL OR IMPROPER ACTIVITY
52.203-12	SEP 2007	LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS TO INFLUENCE CERTAIN FEDERAL TRANSACTIONS
52.203-13	DEC 2008	CONTRACTOR CODE OF BUSINESS ETHICS AND CONDUCT
52.203-15	MAR 2009	WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009
52.204-4	AUG 2000	PRINTING/COPYING DOUBLE SIDED ON RECYCLED PAPER
52.204-7	APR 2008	CENTRAL CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION
52.204-9	SEP 2007	PERSONAL IDENTITY VERIFICATION OF CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL
52.204-11	MAR 2009	AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT -- REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
52.209-6	SEP 2006	PROTECTING THE GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST WHEN SUBCONTRACTING WITH CONTRACTORS DEBARRED, SUSPENDED, OR PROPOSED FOR DEBARMENT
52.211-5	AUG 2000	MATERIALS REQUIRED
52.215-2	MAR 2009	AUDIT AND RECORDS -- NEGOTIATION (ALTERNATE I)
52.215-8	OCT 1997	ORDER OF PRECEDENCE -- UNIFORM CONTRACT FORMAT
52.215-11	OCT 1997	PRICE REDUCTION FOR DEFECTIVE COST OR PRICING DATA -- MODIFICATIONS
52.215-13	OCT 1997	SUBCONTRACTOR COST OR PRICING DATA -- MODIFICATIONS



52.215-14	OCT 1997	INTEGRITY OF UNIT PRICES
52.215-15	OCT 2004	PENSION ADJUSTMENTS AND ASSET REVERSIONS
52.215-18	JUL 2005	REVERSION OR ADJUSTMENT OF PLANS FOR POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (PRB)
52.215-19	OCT 1997	NOTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP CHANGES
52.215-21	OCT 1997	REQUIREMENTS FOR COST OR PRICING DATA OR INFORMATION OTHER THAN COST OR PRICING DATA -- MODIFICATIONS ACQUISITION WITH ADEQUATE PRICE COMPETITION
52.219-4	JUL 2005	NOTICE OF PRICE EVALUATION PREFERENCE FOR HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS
52.219-8	MAY 2004	UTILIZATION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS
52.219-9	APR 2008	SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN ALTERNATE II (OCT 2001)
52.219-16	JAN 1999	LIQUIDATED DAMAGES -- SUBCONTRACTING PLAN
52.219-28	APR 2009	POST-AWARD SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM REPRESENTATION
52.222-3	JUN 2003	CONVICT LABOR
52.222-19	AUG 2009	CHILD LABOR -- COOPERATION WITH AUTHORITIES AND REMEDIES
52.222-21	FEB 1999	PROHIBITION OF SEGREGATED FACILITIES
52.222-26	MAR 2007	EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
52.222-35	SEP 2006	EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR SPECIAL DISABLED VETERANS, VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM ERA, AND OTHER ELIGIBLE VETERANS
52.222-36	JUN 1998	AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES
52.222-37	SEP 2006	EMPLOYMENT REPORTS ON SPECIAL DISABLED VETERANS, VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM ERA, AND OTHER ELIGIBLE VETERANS
52.222-39	DEC 2004	NOTIFICATION OF EMPLOYER RIGHTS CONCERNING PAYMENT OF UNION DUES OR FEES
52.222-50	FEB 2009	COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
52.222-54	JAN 2009	EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION
52.223-5	AUG 2003	POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RIGHT-TO-KNOW INFORMATION
52.223-6	MAY 2001	DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE
52.223-14	AUG 2003	TOXIC CHEMICAL RELEASE REPORTING
52.225-5	AUG 2009	TRADE AGREEMENTS
52.225-8	FEB 2000	DUTY-FREE ENTRY
52.225-13	JUN 2008	RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN FOREIGN PURCHASES
52.227-1	DEC 2007	AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT
52.227-2	DEC 2007	NOTICE AND ASSISTANCE REGARDING PATENT AND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT
52.227-3	APR 1984	PATENT INDEMNITY
52.227-14	DEC 2007	RIGHTS IN DATA -- GENERAL (ALTERNATE II [JUN 1987] AND III [JUN 1987])
52.227-19	DEC 2007	COMMERCIAL COMPUTER SOFTWARE LICENSE
52.228-5	JAN 1997	INSURANCE -- WORK ON A GOVERNMENT INSTALLATION
52.229-1	APR 1984	STATE AND LOCAL TAXES
52.229-3	APR 2003	FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL TAXES
52.232-1	APR 1984	PAYMENTS
52.232-7	FEB 2007	PAYMENTS UNDER TIME-AND-MATERIAL AND LABOR-HOUR CONTRACTS



52.232-8	FEB 2002	DISCOUNTS FOR PROMPT PAYMENT
52.232-11	APR 1984	EXTRAS
52.232-17	OCT 2008	INTEREST
52.232-23	JAN 1986	ASSIGNMENT OF CLAIMS
52.232-25	OCT 2008	PROMPT PAYMENT
52.232-33	OCT 2003	PAYMENT BY ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER -- CENTRAL CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION
52.233-1	JUL 2002	DISPUTES (ALT I [DEC 1991])
52.233-3	AUG 1996	PROTEST AFTER AWARD
52.233-4	OCT 2004	APPLICABLE LAW FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT CLAIM
52.237-2	APR 1984	PROTECTION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT AND VEGETATION
52.242-13	JUL 1995	BANKRUPTCY
52.242-15	AUG 1989	STOP-WORK ORDER
52.242-17	APR 1984	GOVERNMENT DELAY OF WORK
52.243-1	AUG 1987	CHANGES -- FIXED-PRICE
52.244-2	JUN 2007	SUBCONTRACTS
52.244-6	AUG 2009	SUBCONTRACTS FOR COMMERCIAL ITEMS
52.245-1	JUN 2007	GOVERNMENT PROPERTY (FIXED-PRICE CONTRACTS)
52.245-9	JUN 2007	USE AND CHARGES
52.246-2	AUG 1996	INSPECTION OF SUPPLIES--FIXED PRICE
52.246-4	AUG 1996	INSPECTION OF SERVICES--FIXED PRICE
52.246-16	APR 1984	RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPPLIES
52.247-35	APR 1984	F.O.B. DESTINATION, WITHIN CONSIGNEE'S PREMISES
52.248-1	FEB 2000	VALUE ENGINEERING
52.249-2	MAY 2004	TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT (FIXED-PRICE)
52.249-8	APR 1984	DEFAULT (FIXED-PRICE SUPPLY AND SERVICE)
52.253-1	JAN 1991	COMPUTER GENERATION OF FORMS BY THE PUBLIC

I.2 OPTION FOR INCREASED QUANTITY-SEPARATELY PRICED LINE ITEM (FAR 52.217-7) (MAR 1989)

The Government may require the delivery of the numbered line item, identified in the Schedule as an option item, in the quantity and at the price stated in the Schedule. The Contracting Officer may exercise the option by written notice to the Contractor at any time during the life of the contract. Delivery of added items shall continue at the same rate that like items are called for under the contract, unless the parties otherwise agree.

I.3 OPTION TO EXTEND SERVICES (FAR 52.217-8) (NOV 1999)

The Government may require continued performance of any services within the limits and at the rates specified in the contract. These rates may be adjusted only as a result of revisions to prevailing labor rates



provided by the Secretary of Labor. The option provision may be exercised more than once, but the total extension of performance hereunder shall not exceed 6 months. The Contracting Officer may exercise the option by written notice to the Contractor any time prior to the expiration of the contract.

**I.4 OPTION TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT (FAR 52.217-9)
(MAR 2000)**

a. The Government may extend the term of this contract by written notice to the Contractor prior to expiration of the contract; provided that the Government gives the Contractor a preliminary written notice of its intent to extend at least thirty (30) days before the contract expires. The preliminary notice does not commit the Government to an extension.

b. If the Government exercises this option, the extended contract shall be considered to include this option clause.

c. The total duration of this contract, including the exercise of any options under this clause, shall not exceed nine (9) years.

I.5 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR (FAR 52.232-19) (APR 1984)

Funds are not presently available for performance under this contract beyond September 2010. The Government's obligation for performance of this contract beyond that date is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment for contract purposes can be made. No legal liability on the part of the Government for any payment may arise for performance under this contract beyond September 2010, until funds are made available to the Contracting Officer for performance and until the Contractor receives notice of availability, to be confirmed in writing by the Contracting Officer.

I.6 ORDERING (FAR 52.216-18) (OCT 1995)

a. Any supplies and services to be furnished under this contract shall be ordered by issuance of delivery orders or task orders by the individuals or activities designated in the Schedule. Such orders may be issued from date of contract award through the life of the contract.

b. All delivery orders or task orders are subject to the terms and conditions of this contract. In the event of conflict between a



delivery order or task order and this contract, the contract shall control.

c. If mailed, a delivery order or task order is considered "issued" when the Government deposits the order in the mail. Orders may be issued orally, by facsimile, or by electronic commerce methods only if authorized in the Schedule.

I.7 ORDER LIMITATIONS (FAR 52.216-19) (OCT 1995)

a. Minimum order. When the Government requires supplies or services covered by this contract in an amount of less than \$10,000.00, the Government is not obligated to purchase, nor is the Contractor obligated to furnish, those supplies or services under the contract.

b. Maximum order. The Contractor is not obligated to honor:

i. Any order for a single item in excess of \$25,000,000.00 for CLIN 0001 through CLIN 0009 and \$500,000.00 for CLIN 0001A through CLIN 0009A;

ii. Any order for a combination of items in excess of \$50,000,000.00 for CLIN 0001 through CLIN 0009 and \$5,000,000.00 for CLIN 0001A through CLIN 0009A; or

iii. A series of orders from the same ordering office within 5 days that together call for quantities exceeding the limitation in subparagraph (1) or (2) above.

c. If this is a requirement contract (i.e., includes the Requirements clause at subsection 52.216-21 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)), the Government is not required to order a part of any one requirement from the Contractor if that requirement exceeds the maximum-order limitation in paragraph (b) above.

b. Notwithstanding paragraphs (b) and (c) above, the Contractor shall honor any order exceeding the maximum order limitation in paragraph (b), unless that order (or orders) is returned to the ordering office within ten (10) days after issuance, with written notice stating the Contractor's intent not to ship the item (or items) called for and the reasons. Upon receiving this notice, the Government may acquire the supplies from another source.

I.8 INDEFINITE QUANTITY (FAR 52.216-22) (OCT 1995)

a. This is an indefinite quantity contract for the supplies or services specified, and effective for the period stated, in the



Schedule. The quantities of supplies and services specified in the Schedule are estimates only and are not purchased by this contract.

b. Delivery or performance shall be made only as authorized by orders issued in accordance with the Ordering clause. The Contractor shall furnish to the Government, when and if ordered, the supplies or services specified in the Schedule up to and including the quantity designated in the Schedule as the "maximum." The Government shall order at least the quantity of supplies or services designated in the Schedule as the "minimum."

c. Except for any limitations on quantities in the Order Limitations clause or in the Schedule, there is no limit on the number of orders that may be issued. The Government may issue orders requiring delivery to multiple destinations or performance at multiple locations.

d. Any order issued during the effective period of this contract and not completed within that period shall be completed by the Contractor within the time specified in the order. The contract shall govern the Contractor's and Government's rights and obligations with respect to that order to the same extent as if the order were completed during the contract's effective period; provided, that the Contractor shall not be required to make any deliveries under this contract after the expiration of the contract award.



SECTION J

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: DOC NOAA Non-Disclosure Agreement



SECTION K**REPRESENTATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS, & OTHER STATEMENTS****K.1 52.204-8 ANNUAL REPRESENTATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS (FEB 2009)**

(a) (1) The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for this acquisition is 541512—Computer System Design Services.

(2) The small business size standard is \$25 million.

(3) The small business size standard for a concern which submits an offer in its own name, other than on a construction or service contract, but which proposes to furnish a product which it did not itself manufacture, is 500 employees.

(b) (1) If the clause at 52.204-7, Central Contractor Registration (CCR), is included in this solicitation, paragraph (d) of this provision applies.

(2) If the clause at 52.204-7 is not included in this solicitation, and the Offeror is currently registered in CCR, www.bpn.gov/ccr, and has completed the ORCA, orca.bpn.gov, electronically, the Offeror may choose to use paragraph (d) of this provision instead of completing the corresponding individual representations and certifications in the solicitation. The Offeror shall indicate which option applies by checking one of the following boxes:

(i) Paragraph (d) applies.

(ii) Paragraph (d) does not apply and the Offeror has completed the individual representations and certifications in the solicitation.

(c) (1) The following representations or certifications in ORCA are applicable to this solicitation as indicated:

(i) 52.203-2, Certificate of Independent Price Determination. This provision applies to solicitations when a firm fixed-price contract or fixed-price contract with economic price adjustment is contemplated, unless—

(A) The acquisition is to be made under the simplified acquisition procedures in Part 13;

(B) The solicitation is a request for technical proposals under two-step sealed bidding procedures; or



(C) The solicitation is for utility services for which rates are set by law or regulation.

(ii) 52.203-11, Certification and Disclosure Regarding Payments to Influence Certain Federal Transactions. This provision applies to solicitations expected to exceed \$100,000.

(iii) 52.204-3, Taxpayer Identification. This provision applies to solicitations that do not include the clause at 52.204-7, Central Contractor Registration.

(iv) 52.204-5, Women-Owned Business (Other Than Small Business). This provision applies to solicitations that—

(A) Are not set aside for small business concerns;

(B) Exceed the simplified acquisition threshold; and

(C) Are for contracts that will be performed in the United States or its outlying areas.

(v) 52.209-5, Certification Regarding Responsibility Matters. This provision applies to solicitations where the contract value is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.

(vi) 52.214-14, Place of Performance—Sealed Bidding. This provision applies to invitations for bids except those in which the place of performance is specified by the Government.

(vii) 52.215-6, Place of Performance. This provision applies to solicitations unless the place of performance is specified by the Government.

(viii) 52.219-1, Small Business Program Representations (Basic & Alternate I). This provision applies to solicitations when the contract will be performed in the United States or its outlying areas.

(A) The basic provision applies when the solicitations are issued by other than DoD, NASA, and the Coast Guard.

(B) The provision with its Alternate I applies to solicitations issued by DoD, NASA, or the Coast Guard.

(ix) 52.219-2, Equal Low Bids. This provision applies to solicitations when contracting by sealed bidding and the contract will be performed in the United States or its outlying areas.

(x) 52.222-22, Previous Contracts and Compliance Reports. This provision applies to solicitations that include the clause at 52.222-26, Equal Opportunity.



(xi) 52.222-25, Affirmative Action Compliance. This provision applies to solicitations, other than those for construction, when the solicitation includes the clause at 52.222-26, Equal Opportunity.

(xii) 52.222-38, Compliance with Veterans' Employment Reporting Requirements. This provision applies to solicitations when it is anticipated the contract award will exceed the simplified acquisition threshold and the contract is not for acquisition of commercial items.

(xiii) 52.223-1, Biobased Product Certification. This provision applies to solicitations that require the delivery or specify the use of USDA-designated items; or include the clause at 52.223-2, Affirmative Procurement of Biobased Products Under Service and Construction Contracts.

(xiv) 52.223-4, Recovered Material Certification. This provision applies to solicitations that are for, or specify the use of, EPA-designated items.

(xv) 52.225-2, Buy American Act Certificate. This provision applies to solicitations containing the clause at 52.225-1.

(xvi) 52.225-4, Buy American Act-Free Trade Agreements-Israeli Trade Act Certificate. (Basic, Alternate I, and Alternate II) This provision applies to solicitations containing the clause at 52.225-3.

(A) If the acquisition value is less than \$25,000, the basic provision applies.

(B) If the acquisition value is \$25,000 or more but is less than \$50,000, the provision with its Alternate I applies.

(C) If the acquisition value is \$50,000 or more but is less than \$67,826, the provision with its Alternate II applies.

(xvii) 52.225-6, Trade Agreements Certificate. This provision applies to solicitations containing the clause at 52.225-5.

(xviii) 52.225-20, Prohibition on Conducting Restricted Business Operations in Sudan-Certification.

(xix) 52.226-2, Historically Black College or University and Minority Institution Representation. This provision applies to-

(A) Solicitations for research, studies, supplies, or services of the type normally acquired from higher educational institutions; and

(B) For DoD, NASA, and Coast Guard acquisitions, solicitations that contain the clause at 52.219-23, Notice of Price Evaluation Adjustment for Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns.



(2) The following certifications are applicable as indicated by the Contracting Officer:

___ (i) 52.219-19, Small Business Concern Representation for the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program.

___ (ii) 52.219-21, Small Business Size Representation for Targeted Industry Categories Under the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program.

___ (iii) 52.219-22, Small Disadvantaged Business Status.

___ (A) Basic.

___ (B) Alternate I.

___ (iv) 52.222-18, Certification Regarding Knowledge of Child Labor for Listed End Products.

___ (v) 52.222-48, Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Act to Contracts for Maintenance, Calibration, or Repair of Certain Equipment Certification.

___ (vi) 52.222-52, Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Act to Contracts for Certain Services-Certification.

___ (vii) 52.223-9, with its Alternate I, Estimate of Percentage of Recovered Material Content for EPA-Designated Products (Alternate I only).

(viii) 52.223-13, Certification of Toxic Chemical Release Reporting.

___ (ix) 52.227-6, Royalty Information.

___ (A) Basic.

___ (B) Alternate I.

(x) 52.227-15, Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Computer Software.

(d) The Offeror has completed the annual representations and certifications electronically via the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA) website at orca.bpn.gov. After reviewing the ORCA database information, the Offeror verifies by submission of the offer that the representations and certifications currently posted electronically that apply to this solicitation as indicated in paragraph (c) of this provision have been entered or updated within the last twelve (12) months, are current, accurate, complete, and applicable to this solicitation



(including the business size standard applicable to the NAICS code referenced for this solicitation), as of the date of this offer and are incorporated in this offer by reference (see FAR 4.1201); except for the changes identified below [*Offeror to insert changes, identifying change by clause number, title, date*]. These amended representation(s) and/or certification(s) are also incorporated in this offer and are current, accurate, and complete as of the date of this offer. Any changes provided by the Offeror are applicable to this solicitation only, and do not result in an update to the representations and certifications posted on ORCA.

(End of provision)

K.2 CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the responses to the above Representations, Certifications and other statements are accurate and complete.

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

K.2 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

Designate below the person(s) whom the Government may contact for prompt action on matters pertaining to administration of the contract.

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____



SECTION L

INSTRUCTIONS, CONDITIONS, & NOTICES TO OFFERORS

L.1 SOLICITATION PROVISIONS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FAR 52.252-1) (FEB 1998)

This solicitation incorporates one or more solicitation provisions by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. The Offeror is cautioned that the listed provisions may include blocks that must be completed by the Offeror and submitted with its quotation or offer. In lieu of submitting the full text of those provisions, the Offeror may identify the provision by paragraph identifier and provide the appropriate information with its quotation or offer. Also, the full text of a solicitation provision may be accessed electronically at this address: www.arnet.gov/far.

FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (48 CFR CHAPTER 1)

CLAUSE NUMBER	DATE	TITLE
52.214-34	APR 1991	SUBMISSION OF OFFERS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
52.214-35	APR 1991	SUBMISSION OF OFFERS IN U.S. CURRENCY
52.215-1	JAN 2004	INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS-COMPETITIVE ACQUISITIONS (ALTERNATES I AND II)
52.215-16	JUN 2003	FACILITIES CAPITAL COST OF MONEY
52.216-27	OCT 1995	SINGLE OR MULTIPLE AWARDS
52.222-24	FEB 1999	PREAWARD ON-SITE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE REVIEW

L.2 REGULATORY NOTICE (CAR 1352.252-71) (MAR 2000)

Offerors are advised that certain provisions and clauses identified with a Commerce Acquisition Regulation (CAR) notation for identification purposes have not yet been incorporated into the CAR. However, all of these items are binding for this acquisition and will eventually be contained in the CAR at Part 13 of Title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

L.3 INQUIRIES (CAR 1352.215-73) (MAR 2000)

Offerors must submit all questions concerning this solicitation in writing to the Contracting Officer. Questions submitted within 25 days after issuance of this solicitation shall be answered prior to the



proposal due date. The RFP, its amendments, and all responses to questions will be posted on the web site established specifically for this acquisition: rdhpcs.noaa.gov/2009. OFFERORS ARE INSTRUCTED SPECIFICALLY TO CONTACT ONLY THE PERSON CITED IN BLOCK 10 OF THE SF33 ABOUT ANY ASPECT OF THIS REQUIREMENT PRIOR TO CONTRACT AWARD. Offerors may use the R&D HPCS Q&A web site to contact the person cited in Block 10 of the SF33. The RFP Q&A URL is: rdhpcs.noaa.gov/2009.

L.4 TYPE OF CONTRACT (FAR 52.216-1) (APR 1984)

The Government contemplates award of an indefinite delivery indefinite quantity contract with fixed priced tasks. Included in this solicitation and resulting contract are indefinite quantity options for engineering services and hardware and software. If exercised, the hardware and software will be acquired on a firm fixed price basis and the engineering services will be acquired on a fixed price basis.

L.5 SUBMISSION OF OFFERS

L.5.1 Markings

It is important that the outer envelope or wrapping of your offer be addressed as follows:

Offeror's Return Address

TO: (See Specific Addresses Cited Below)
Solicitation No. DG1330-10-RP-0168
Closing Date: 16 December 2009
Closing Time: 12:00 PM local time

L.5.2 Hand Carried Offers

Proposals hand carried must be delivered to the offices cited below (sealed offers only). Hand carried offers must be delivered and contact must be made with the below offices by the date and time specified in this solicitation. Proposals received at the destination(s) after the date and time specified for receipt will be considered late and dealt with in accordance with the late proposals provisions of paragraph (c)(3) of FAR 52.215-1, Instructions to Offerors, Competitive Acquisition.

L.5.3 Quantities and Format

All proposals (offers) shall be submitted in the quantities and format specified below:

L.5.3.1 Standard Form 33, Solicitation, Offer, and Award



The Standard Form 33, Solicitation, Offer, and Award (SF 33) is being used for this solicitation. This form is used by the Government as a request for proposal, and upon submission by the Offeror, it becomes the Offeror's proposal. As such, it is an offer that can be unilaterally accepted by the Contracting Officer and awarded on said SF 33. The offer and acceptance form the contract. Therefore, the following points must be strictly adhered to by the Offeror in submitting the proposal.

L.5.3.2 The SF 33 must be executed by a representative of the Offeror authorized to commit the Offeror to contractual obligations. The authority to sign a proposal, but not an offer, subject to unilateral acceptance and award, is not sufficient authorization to sign the SF 33.

L.5.3.3 UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE ALTERATIONS OR CHANGES TO THE SF 33 OR THE RELATED PAGES, WHICH ARE A PART OF THE ENCLOSED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AND PROPOSAL PACKET. Offerors are to complete those parts that require items such as prices, place of performance, etc., when such items are called for in the enclosed request for proposal. A place is provided to insert such information.

L.5.3.4 Three (3) originally executed (i.e., with original signature) copies of the SF 33 and one (1) copy of Section K, fully executed, shall be submitted to the following address:

USPS Mail, Expedited Shipping Address and Hand Delivery Address:

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1325 East-West Highway, Room 11216
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.3.5 Offeror's Demonstrated Relevant Experience, Corporate Experience, and Technical and Management Approach Proposal

L.5.3.5.1 The demonstrated relevant experience, corporate experience, and technical and management approach proposal shall be submitted in hard copies and, in addition, on ISO-9660 CD-ROM, formatted in Portable Document Format (PDF) format. Five (5) hard copies and five (5) machine readable CD-ROM copies of the Offeror's technical proposal shall be submitted in the format prescribed in Section L.6 to the following address:

USPS Mail, Expedited Shipping Address and Hand Delivery Address:

David Michaud, Director HPCC Office
U.S. Department of Commerce / NOAA
Office of the CIO, HPCC
1315 East-West Highway, Room 9600
Silver Spring, MD 20910



L.5.3.5.2 One (1) original and one (1) hardcopy of the Offeror's demonstrated relevant experience, corporate experience, and technical and management approach proposal and two (2) machine readable CD-ROM copies of the Offeror's demonstrated relevant experience, corporate experience, and technical and management approach proposal shall be submitted in the format prescribed in Section L.6 to the following address:

USPS Mail, Expedited Shipping Address and Hand Delivery Address:

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1325 East West Highway, Room 11216
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.3.6 Past Performance

The information requested in Section L.6 Past Performance shall be submitted as follows:

L.5.3.6.1 Five (5) hard copies and five (5) machine readable CD-ROM copies shall be submitted to the following address:

USPS Mail, Expedited Shipping Address and Hand Delivery Address:

David Michaud, Director HPCC Office
U.S. Department of Commerce / NOAA
Office of the CIO, HPCC
1315 East-West Highway, Room 9600
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.3.6.2 One (1) original and one (1) copy of the Offeror's past performance shall be submitted in the format prescribed in Section L.6 to the following address

USPS Mail, Expedited Shipping Address and Hand Delivery Address:

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
1325 Acquisition Management Division
East West Highway, Room 11216
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.3.7 Offeror's Price Proposal

The price proposal shall be submitted in hard copy and, in addition, on ISO-9660 CD-ROM, formatted in Portable Document Format (PDF) or Microsoft Excel format. All financial tables submitted are required to be in Microsoft Excel format.

L.5.3.7.1 Five (5) hard copies and five (5) machine readable CD-ROM copies of the Offeror's price proposal shall be



prepared in the format described in Section L.6 and Section B and submitted to the following address:

USPS Mail, Expedited Shipping Address and Hand Delivery Address:

David Michaud, Director HPCC Office
U.S. Department of Commerce / NOAA
Office of the CIO, HPCC
1315 East-West Highway, Room 9600
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.3.7.2 One (1) original and one (1) hard copy and two (2) machine readable CD-ROM copies of the Offeror's price proposal shall be submitted in the format prescribed in section L.6 and Section B to the following address:

USPS Mail, Expedited Shipping Address and Hand Delivery Address:

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
1325 Acquisition Management Division
East West Highway, Room 11216
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.5.4 Subcontracting Plan

In accordance with FAR 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan (included in Section I.1 by reference), Offerors (large business concerns only) are required to submit a Small Business Subcontracting Plan. Reference L.13, Subcontracting Support in Accordance With Public Law 95-507, and L.14, HubZone Subcontracting Goals, of this Section for applicable subcontracting goals. This plan shall be included with the initial proposal and submitted to the following address:

USPS Mail, Expedited Shipping Address and Hand Delivery Address:

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
1325 Acquisition Management Division
East West Highway, Room 11216
Silver Spring, MD 20910

L.6 PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals shall be prepared and submitted as described below.

L.6.1 Demonstrated Relevant Experience, Corporate Experience, Technical and Management Approach, and Past Performance

The Demonstrated Relevant Experience, Corporate Experience, Technical and Management Approach, and Past Performance proposal will



be used to evaluate an Offerors' ability to provide and perform the requirements detailed in Section C. Offerors should bear in mind that risk will be assessed for all elements of the technical proposal.

L.6.1.1 The demonstrated relevant experience, corporate experience, technical and management approach, and past performance proposal must be organized with sections tabbed and arranged as described in Section L.6.2 through Section L.6.7. The proposal should include additional information that the Offeror believes will more completely describe its ability to meet NOAA's needs. The proposal shall not merely offer to perform work in accordance with the statement of work (SOW), but shall outline the actual work proposed as specifically as practical. The SOW reflects the problems and objectives of the program under consideration; therefore, repeating the scope without sufficient elaboration will not be acceptable.

L.6.1.2 The proposal must be prepared using the Courier New font in 10 point size for all text portions. It must be formatted to print double-sided on 8.5" by 11" paper with 1" margins on all sides. Page numbers must be printed in the bottom margin, centered, in the format "section - page", and page begins at 1 for each section. The requested hardcopies must be bound.

L.6.1.3 Offerors shall limit their responses to Section L.6.2.1 through L.6.2.4 and Section L.6.3.1 through L.6.3.6 to no more than thirty (30) pages. Offerors may include diagrams and tables within the thirty (30) page limit, but text imbedded in the diagrams should be easily readable and no less than 8 point type. In responding to each question Offerors shall first restate the scenario or question that is being addressed.

L.6.1.4 Offerors shall limit their responses to Section L.6.2.5 through Section L.6.2.13 and Section L.6.3.7 through 7.6.3.14 to a total of forty-five (45) pages. Offerors may include diagrams and tables within the forty-five (45) page limit, but text embedded in the diagrams should be easily readable and no less than 8 point type. In responding to each question Offerors shall first restate the question that is being addressed.

L.6.1.5 Offerors shall limit their responses to Section L.6.4 to a total of twenty (20) pages. Offerors may include diagrams and tables within the twenty (20) page limit, but text embedded in the diagrams should be easily readable and no less than 8 point type. The Project Management Plan can be submitted as a separate document and will not count towards the twenty (20) pages. Resumes for key personnel submitted shall be limited to three (3) pages each and these will not count towards the twenty (20) pages.

L.6.1.6 The final revision of the proposal must be provided as a complete document, not as change pages. In addition, a change document must be provided in which all deleted text is marked with a "strikeout" (i.e., strikeout) and added or modified text is yellow color highlighted.



L.6.1.7 The proposal organization with instructions is provided below.

L.6.2 TAB I Factor I: Demonstrated Relevant Experience

The Offeror shall respond to the following questions:

L.6.2.1 Subfactor 1

Assume that NOAA has encountered an intermittent numerical reproducibility problem on a system you have delivered from a single subcontractor. From a technical and programmatic perspective, describe in detail what steps you would follow to identify, mitigate, and resolve a numerical reproducibility issue. As a part of your response, please address the following questions:

L.6.2.1.1 How will the Government's interests be represented?

L.6.2.1.2 What contractual remedies will be provided?

L.6.2.1.3 What experience do you have resolving this problem or a similar one with a subcontractor?

L.6.2.1.4 What will your role be, as the prime contractor, in resolving this problem? If you have encountered this type of problem on other contracts please reference your experience and provide a reference with phone number.

L.6.2.2 Subfactor 2

You have delivered a multi-vendor solution and an end-to-end data integrity issue has been identified. It is unclear if a subcontractor provided component, the facility, or the network is responsible for the problem. Describe your approach from both technical and management perspectives in addressing this problem. As part of your response, please address the following questions:

L.6.2.2.1 How will the Government's interests be represented?

L.6.2.2.2 What contractual remedies will be provided?

L.6.2.2.3 What experience do you have resolving this problem or a similar one in which multiple subcontractors were involved?



L.6.2.2.4 What will your role be, as the prime contractor, in resolving this problem?

L.6.2.3 Subfactor 3

Assume that the system you delivered is comprised of multiple components from multiple vendors that involve many software components. Please address the following questions:

L.6.2.3.1 Describe your approach for managing periodic upgrades of the various software components.

L.6.2.3.2 The Department of Commerce/NOAA announces that a security patch must be applied within the next 72 hours. How would you respond to this requirement? Please describe your process in detail.

L.6.2.3.3 Two of your vendors have announced pending software upgrades separated by two months. How would you implement the upgrades?

L.6.2.4 Subfactor 4

The Government has just given you a statement of objectives to deliver, maintain, and operate a system in a facility that will be provided by the Government. The facility is operated and maintained by another Contractor. Describe your approach for working with the Government and the other vendor to deliver, operate and maintain the system that you deliver in this facility. As part of your response, please address how would coordinate and execute any facility modifications that your system would require.

L.6.2.5 Subfactor 5: Software Performance Optimizations on High Performance Computing System (HPCS)

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in performing software performance optimizations (Section C.6.12) on HPC systems. For each example describe what steps were taken and what increases in performance or efficiencies were achieved.

L.6.2.6 Subfactor 6: Transition-In Task

One of the first tasks that will be awarded will be to transition the current R&D HPCS operations and maintenance from the incumbent Contractor to this new contract (Section C.6.4.1). The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in transitioning operations and maintenance activities from another vendor of a HPC system or other IT system of similar size and



complexity. Include in your response any formal processes or methodologies that the unit employed and how challenges were successfully overcome.

L.6.2.7 Subfactor 7: Operating a Help Desk

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in operating a help desk (Section C.6.13) that supported high performance computing system or other IT system of similar size and complexity. The response should include a description of the functions performed, metrics used to measure performance, software tools employed, staffing, processes that were used, and number of users supported, and any experience in operating a help desk in a geographically distributed environment.

L.6.2.8 Subfactor 8: Implementing and Managing Batch Scheduling Systems

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in implementing and supporting batch scheduling systems in a heterogeneous environment. Include in your response the types of batch scheduling systems that the organizational unit supported.

L.6.2.9 Subfactor 9: Migrating Applications, Users, and Data

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in migrating applications, users, and data from one architecture to another and any experience in supporting activities involved with the transition of research to operations (Section C.6.6). Include in your response any challenges that were encountered and how they were successfully overcome. Discuss the size, complexity, and scope of the migration effort.

L.6.2.10 Subfactor 10: Operating and Maintaining Large Hierarchical Storage Management Systems (HSMS)

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in operating and maintaining large (greater than 25PB) Hierarchical Storage Management Systems (HSMS) (Section C.6.9). Discuss the technologies that were employed and any problems that were overcome. Also discuss any future trends that you see in storage management.

L.6.2.11 Subfactor 11: Designing and Implementing Facility Modifications

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for



this contract has gained experience in designing and implementing facility modifications that support high performance computers or other large IT related projects (Section C.6.16). Discuss the size, complexity, and scope of the modifications, including details of the project costs. Include in your response any challenges that were encountered and successfully overcome. If the organizational unit has any experience in providing facilities as a part of a project or contract of similar scope and magnitude, include that information.

L.6.2.12 Subfactor 12: Managing Electrical Power

The Offeror shall provide a description of how they have managed electrical power consumption for previous HPC contracts (Section C.6.16.10). Include in your response a description of how electrical power costs were paid, who paid the costs, and what steps were taken to efficiently utilize power and to minimize electric utility costs.

L.6.2.13 Subfactor 13: Configuration Management

Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has performed configuration management activities for a HPC system or other IT system of similar size and complexity (Section C.6.15). In your response include any formal processes, methodologies, or software tools that were employed.

L.6.3 **TAB II Factor II: Corporate Experience**

L.6.3.1 Subfactor 14

After contract award your company receives a fixed price task order from the Government requesting a proposal to acquire, deliver, operate and maintain a large scale, balanced, computational solution (~.25 - .50 PFs). Please describe in detail the process that your company would follow in order to work with NOAA to get a full understanding of the requirements. As part of your response, describe how your company would deliver a proposal that would either meet or exceed the Government's expectations. Describe in your response your approach toward clarifying any uncertainties or questions that you might have about the requirements.

L.6.3.2 Subfactor 15

You have just delivered the system, as described in question one above. The system consists of many components such as compute, file system, long term storage, and remote analysis systems. The components have been supplied by multiple subcontractors that you have partnered with. After delivery and acceptance, a persistent problem occurs with one of the components that involves detailed



analysis to understand and resolve. Describe how you would represent NOAA's interests in dealing with your subcontractor(s) to solve the problem. Also describe the process of how you would facilitate the information exchange between NOAA and your subcontractor(s).

L.6.3.3 Subfactor 16

You will be responsible for supporting user applications that will execute at various locations within the R&D HPCS domain. Describe how you would support applications in a geographically distributed environment.

L.6.3.4 Subfactor 17

A critical issue has been identified with one of the components of the system. The component was delivered by a major subcontractor that has very recently gone out of business. How do you intend to meet the terms of the contract?

L.6.3.5 Subfactor 18

Given that all tasks under this contract will be fixed price, describe your company's approach for providing the best information technology and support services under this type of contract. As part of your response, please address how you would provide a balanced solution of technology, and the people required to maintain and operate the system, that provides the Government with maximum system availability.

L.6.3.6 Subfactor 19

When evaluating various technologies to propose to the Government to meet task order requirements, describe if and how you would involve the Government stakeholders in evaluating the risks and benefits of the various solutions that are being considered.

L.6.3.7 Subfactor 20: Acquisition and Integration

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the Contractor's organizational unit (organizational unit) that is being proposed for this contract has acquired and integrated high performance computing (HPC) hardware and software within the past ten (10) years (Section C.6.7). Include in your response the total dollar value of each project, a description of what hardware and software were acquired, and how these components were integrated. The response should also describe projects where the organizational unit being proposed has a successful track record of integrating the sub-components of a HPC system. Describe any



challenges that were encountered and how the organizational unit overcame those challenges.

L.6.3.8 Subfactor 21: Meeting Service Level Agreements (SLA) and Availability Specifications

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in meeting service level agreements or system and data availability requirements (Section C.6.10). Include in your response the specific metrics that were used and how successful this unit was in meeting those metrics.

L.6.3.9 Subfactor 22: Meeting Government IT Security Standards and Policies

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in meeting Federal Government mandated security regulations and policies (Section C.6.2). Responses should include examples of specific IT security related activities that Contractor performed. Specifically address in your response the organization unit's experience in the Certification and Accreditation (C&A) process and what roles the unit played.

L.6.3.10 Subfactor 23: Providing Onsite Operations and Management (O&M) Support

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in providing onsite operations and maintenance support for HPC centers (Section C.6.11). For each example cited, include in your response the number of personnel that were involved and list the functional areas in which the staff provided support. Describe any unusual or unexpected events that were encountered and how the staff was able to address those situations. Include any experience in providing O&M support in a distributed environment.

L.6.3.11 Subfactor 24: Managing Documentation

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in creating and maintaining documentation (Section C.6.3) pertaining to a high performance computing system or other IT system of similar size and complexity. In your response, specify what types of documentation were involved, what role the organizational unit played, and any software tools and management processes that the unit employed.

L.6.3.12 Subfactor 25: Implementing Technical or Engineering Change Proposals



The Offeror shall provide a description of their engineering (or technical) change proposal process (Section H.14). In your response, provide step-by-step details of the process that will be used when the organizational unit receives a statement of work from the Government. Include an average timeline for responding to such requests.

L.6.3.13 Subfactor 26: Transition-Out Task

The Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has gained experience in successfully transitioning out of an existing contract to a successor vendor. Include in your response the processes that were employed (Section C.6.4.2). Include any challenges that were encountered and describe how they were resolved. Indicate the size, scope, and complexity of the transition.

L.6.3.14 Subfactor 27: Management of Capacity and Performance

Offeror shall provide examples of specific instances in which the organizational unit that is being proposed for this contract has performed capacity and performance management of HPC systems or other IT system of similar size and complexity (Section C.6.14). The proposal should include experience in performing trend analysis, monitoring and reporting of the system, resource allocation, and other proactive activities.

L.6.4 **TAB III Factor III: Technical and Management Approach**

L.6.4.1 Propose Solution for Acquisition and Implementation of Home File System in Princeton. The Offeror will propose a solution for meeting the requirement identified in Section C.6.8. The Contractor shall submit a proposal that contains all equipment, labor and travel necessary to meet this requirement. The Contractor shall submit this solution in accordance with the applicable requirements identified in Section C.

L.6.4.2 Provide Project Management. The proposal shall describe how the Offeror intends to meet the project management requirements as specified in the SOW. The Offeror shall provide either a Project Management Plan (PMP) from an existing project or a high level draft PMP that, at a minimum, describes what the framework and content will consist of.

L.6.4.3 Provide Project Support. The proposal shall describe how the Offeror intends to meet the project support requirements as specified in the SOW and include recruiting, scheduling, and retention policies. The proposal should include a work breakdown schedule (Level 2). Offerors shall propose key personnel, and provide their proposed responsibilities, and other contractual obligations for each key person during the course of this award. Resumes of proposed key personnel shall be submitted in the proposal. Key personnel will be subject to the key personnel clause in Section H.



L.6.5 **Tab IV Factor IV: Past Performance**

In this section, the Offeror shall describe its capabilities (and those of its subcontractors and consultants, if any), and provide its experience with at least five (5) but no more than seven (7) relevant contracts of a similar nature and magnitude within the past three (3) years. The Offeror must provide information to assist the Government in assessing its ability to perform the contract as proposed. Past Performance Reports are also required for an Offeror's proposed subcontractor(s). The Offeror shall describe its subcontractor(s) experience with at least three (3) but no more than five (5) relevant contracts of a similar nature and magnitude within the past three (3) years. The Offeror shall provide the following information for each of its past performance references:

Past Performance Report

Project Name
Contract Number
Type of Contract
Award Date
Award Price
Final Price
Procurement Activity Name
Contracting Officer Name
Contracting Officer Address
Contracting Officer Telephone Number
Contracting Officer E-mail Address
Technical Point of Contact Name (must possess specialized technical knowledge of the high-performance computing components acquired.)
Technical Point of Contact Address
Technical Point of Contact Telephone Number
Technical Point of Contact E-mail Address
List of Subcontractors or Team Partners

L.6.6 **TAB V: Exceptions**

List all exceptions taken to the Government's requirements, giving the Offeror's rationale for each exception.

L.6.7 **TAB VI Factor V: Price Proposal**

Offerors are not required to submit certified cost or pricing data with their cost proposal. Full and open competition will be used to determine if prices are fair and reasonable. However, Offerors may be requested to provide additional information in the event prices appear overstated or understated. The Offeror is required to include the following in its price proposal for the basic contract:

L.6.7.1 Section C describes and Section C, Appendix F provides a listing of labor categories that will become the basis of engineering services. The Contractor is required to provide labor categories and hourly rates with these exact titles. If the Offeror



proposes additional labor categories, the Offeror must provide a detailed description of the capability, experience, and qualifications for each new proposed labor category. The labor categories and category definitions proposed under this section must support the labor categories proposed in the price proposal. As necessary, additional labor categories may be added or deleted in order to fulfill staffing requirements under the scope of this contract. Offerors shall provide qualifications for each of the identified labor categories.

L.6.7.2 The Offeror shall provide its labor escalation rate for each option period.

L.6.7.3 The Offeror shall identify all indirect categories, rates and profit. Indirect rates applied to travel, subcontracts, etc., shall also be identified.

L.6.7.4 The Offeror shall propose a tiered discount structure for volume hardware and software purchases. The discounts should be cumulative over the life of the contract. The base for application of discount shall be disclosed (i.e., What is the discount being applied against?).

L.6.7.5 The Offeror shall provide the following in its price proposal for Task Order 0001, Acquisition and Implementation of Home File System in Princeton, Section C.6.8, for each of the four years commencing on contract award:

L.6.7.5.1 Hardware. Provide pricing for hardware by item.

L.6.7.5.2 Software. Provide pricing for software by application and licensed units. Provide monthly pricing for each item of software offered. Indicate if it is leased or purchased software.

L.6.7.5.3 Labor. A breakout by labor category of all services proposed. The labor categories shall be consistent with the labor category template attached in Section C, Appendix F.

L.6.7.5.4 Travel. A description and breakout of proposed travel to include the number of individuals, duration, means of transportation and other travel related costs should be identified.

L.6.7.5.5 A description of hardware maintenance, software maintenance and the total price for each. Additionally, the Government requires an extended warranty through year four of the task order. These costs shall be included in the first year of the task.

L.6.7.5.6 A detailed description and breakout of any other price proposed (e.g. communications, power, cooling, etc.) by year.



L.6.8 Subcontractor Data

The Offeror shall submit the following information for its subcontractors and consultants:

L.6.8.1 A description of the items to be furnished by the subcontractor.

L.6.8.2 Identification of the proposed subcontractor and an explanation of why and how the proposed subcontractor was selected, including the extent of competition obtained.

L.6.8.3 The proposed subcontract price, the Offeror's cost or price analysis thereof, and performance/delivery schedule.

L.6.8.4 Identification of the type of subcontract to be used.

L.7 COST REALISM

An offer is presumed to represent an Offeror's best efforts to respond to the solicitation. Any inconsistency, whether real or apparent, between promised performance and cost or price, should be explained in the proposal. For example, if the intended use of new and innovative production techniques is the basis for an abnormally low estimate, the nature of these techniques and their impact on cost/price should be explained; or, if a business policy decision has been made to absorb a portion of the estimated cost, that should be stated in the proposal. Any significant inconsistency, if unexplained, may raise a fundamental issue of understanding of the nature and scope of the work required and of the Offeror's financial ability to perform the contract, and may be grounds for rejection of the offer. The burden of proof as to cost credibility rests with the Offeror.

L.8 SITE VISIT TO GOVERNMENT-PROVIDED FACILITIES

L.8.1 GFDL Site Visit, Princeton, NJ

Offerors may send designated Contractor personnel to attend the meeting on the following date and time in order to tour the facility and to ask facility questions that are relevant to the site being toured:

GFDL, Princeton, NJ 23 November 2009 at 1:00 PM EST

The Government will make every effort to answer all appropriate questions posed by Contractor personnel during the visit or recorded as additional questions with answers posted on the Q&A public website.

L.8.2 Physical Security Requirements



In order to meet its physical security requirements for background checks, the Government requires Contractors to complete and submit the forms provided on the website, rdhpics.noaa.gov/2009, for each site to be visited. These forms, which will be needed to complete background checks of all designated personnel that expect to attend these site visits, must be received by the Government at the above address no later than **16 November 2009**. The Government reserves the right to deny admission for any personnel that fail to pass the Government's background check.

L.9 SUBCONTRACTING SUPPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 95-507

L.9.1 Small and Disadvantaged Business Participation

Small and small disadvantaged businesses are encouraged to participate as prime Contractors or as members of joint ventures with other small businesses. All interested Contractors are reminded that the successful Contractor will be expected to place subcontracts to the maximum practicable extent with small and small disadvantaged firms in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 95-507 and Subpart 19.7 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

L.9.1.1 Subcontracting Goals

The following are the minimum goals for this acquisition:

- L.9.1.1.1 Subcontracts to Small business firms, 15.0%;
- L.9.1.1.2 Subcontracts to Small Disadvantaged Business firms, 10.0%;
- L.9.1.1.3 Subcontracts to Women-Owned businesses, 3.0%;
- L.9.1.1.4 Subcontracts to Disabled Veteran-Owned business, 1%; and
- L.9.1.1.5 HUBZone, 3% of the total value of the prime contract.

These goals are considered to be minimum goals for NOAA's subcontracts not ceiling goals or maximum goals.

L.10 SERVICE OF PROTEST (FAR 52.233-2) (SEP 2006)



(a) Protests, as defined in 33.101 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation, that are filed directly with an agency, and copies of any protests that are filed with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) shall be served on the Contracting Officer (addressed as follows) by obtaining written and dated acknowledgment of receipt from:

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1325 East West Highway, Room 11216
Silver Spring, MD 20910

(b) The copy of any protest shall be received in the office designated above within one day of filing a protest with the GAO.

L.11 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE OF PROTEST

In addition to the above, protests shall also be served on the Contract Law Division of the Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Finance and Litigation located at:

U.S. Department of Commerce
Contract Law Division
Office of the General Counsel
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room H5893
14th ST, NW and Constitution Avenue,
NW Washington, D.C. 20230
ATTN: Mark Langstein
FAX (202) 482-5858

L.12 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - SERVICE OF PROTESTS (CAR 1352.233-71) (MAR 2000)

An agency protest may be filed with either (1) the Contracting Officer, or (2) at a level above the Contracting Officer, with the agency Protest Decision Authority. See 64 Fed. Reg. 16,651 (April 6, 1999) (Internet site: <http://oamweb.osec.doc.gov/docs/car13.htm#car13>) for the procedures for filing agency protests at the level above the Contracting Officer (with the Protest Decision Authority).

Agency protests filed with the Contracting Officer shall be sent to the following address:

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA
Acquisition Management Division
1325 East West Highway, Room 11216
Silver Spring, MD 20910



If a protest is filed with either the Protest Decision Authority, or with the General Accounting Office (GAO), a complete copy of the protest (including all attachments) shall be served upon both the Contracting Officer and Contract Law Division of the Office of the General Counsel within one day of filing with the Protest Decision Authority or with GAO. Service upon the Contract Law Division shall be made, as follows:

U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of the General Counsel
Contract Law Division--Room 5893
Herbert C. Hoover Building
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230.
Attn: Mark Langstein
FAX: (202) 482-5858

L.13 POST-AWARD CONFERENCE (1352.242-71 MAR 2000)

A post-award conference with the successful Offeror may be required. If required, it will be scheduled and held with five (5) days after the date of contract award. The conference will be held at:

Silver Spring, MD



SECTION M

EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD

M.1 GENERAL EVALUATION INFORMATION

M.1.1 Overview

Careful, full and impartial consideration will be given to offers received pursuant to this Solicitation. Only Offerors which demonstrate acceptable submission to the Government of all items included in Section L of this solicitation (or amendments thereof) will be considered for award. This includes:

M.1.1.1 Submitting a proposal that meets all minimum requirements;

M.1.1.2 Submitting a proposal that complies with all requirements of law, regulation, and conditions set forth in the solicitation; and

M.1.1.3 Submitting a proposal that meets all technical requirements and specifications of the solicitation.

M.1.2 Risk

In evaluating all areas of an Offeror's proposal, the Government may consider risk. Risk may affect the summary rating of the Demonstrated Relevant Experience, Corporate Experience, Technical and Management Approach, and Past Performance.

M.1.3 Glossary

A Glossary of Terms used in this document can be found in Section C, Appendix H of this Request for Proposal (RFP).

M.1.4 Competitive Range

The Contracting Officer will make the determination as to which offers are in the "Competitive Range." The Competitive Range shall be comprised of all the most highly rated proposals unless the range is further reduced for purposes of efficiency pursuant to FAR 15.306(c)(2).

M.1.4.1 The initial number of offers considered as being within the competitive range may be reduced when, as a result of the written or oral discussions, an offer has been determined to no longer have a reasonable chance of being selected for award.



M.1.5 Discussion/ Final Proposal Revision

All Offerors selected to participate in discussions will be advised of deficiencies, significant weaknesses, and other aspects whose remedying might materially enhance their proposal, as well as negative comments concerning past performance. Offerors will be presented a reasonable opportunity to revise its proposal based upon discussions. A final common cut-off date which allows a reasonable opportunity for submission of written responses to discussion issues shall be established, and those Offerors remaining in the competitive range will be notified to submit a final proposal revision.

M.1.6 Responsibility

To be considered for award, an Offeror must be determined responsible according to the standards in FAR Subpart 9.1, Responsible Prospective Contractors.

M.1.7 Evaluation of Options

The following factors will be utilized in evaluating the proposed options:

M.1.7.1 One (1) year transition option. The one (1) year transition option may be exercised at any time after the base period, but may be exercised only once. The factors used to evaluate this option are the price and the strategy used to transition the HPCS into the follow-on system.

M.1.7.2 This contract consists of a four (4) year base contract period with a four (4) year option period and a one (1) year transition option. The four (4) year option period, if exercised, will commence upon expiration of the base contract. Options may be exercised solely at the Government's discretion. The option contract period will continue to provide the computational and associated resources necessary to support continued advances in environmental modeling capabilities and other high performance computing system requirements that may arise within NOAA and at other partner agencies. Offerors must assume that overall system dependability and balance among the HPCS components will be maintained, within the confines of the funding profile, during the option periods.

M.1.7.3 Growth Options. Growth options will be evaluated on price and acquisition strategy.

M.1.7.4 Engineering Services. The factors used to evaluate this option are price and recruitment strategies.

M.1.7.5 The evaluation of options will not obligate the Government to exercise any of the options.

M.1.8 Basis for Award



M.1.8.1 The contract awarded as a result of this Request for Proposal (RFP) will be an integrated assessment by the Contracting Officer of the results of the evaluation based on the evaluation factors and their relative order of importance as indicated below. Ultimately, the source selection decision will take into account the Contractor's capability to meet the requirements of this solicitation on a timely and cost-effective basis. The Government reserves such right of flexibility in making the source selection to assure placement of a contract in the Government's best interest in accordance with the evaluation criteria.

M.1.8.2 Accordingly, the Government may award any resulting contract to other than the lowest priced Offeror, or other than the Offeror with the highest demonstrated relevant experience merit.

M.1.8.3 The following are the major factors that will be utilized in evaluating proposals:

<u>Scored</u>	Demonstrated Relevant Experience Corporate Experience Technical and Management Approach
<u>Not Scored</u>	Past Performance Price

M.1.8.4 Degree of Relative Importance Assigned to Major Evaluation Factors

Demonstrated Relevant Experience and Corporate Experience factors are of equal importance and will be weighted more important than Technical and Management Approach. Past Performance will be evaluated but not scored. The combination of Demonstrated Relevant Experience, Corporate Experience, and Technical and Management Approach, will be significantly more important than Price. In evaluating all areas of an Offeror's proposal, the Government will consider risk. Risk may affect the summary rating of Demonstrated Relevant Experience, Corporate Experience, and Technical and Management Approach.

M.2 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

M.2.1 To be acceptable and eligible for evaluation, proposals must be prepared in accordance with, and comply with, the instructions, specifications and requirements set forth in the solicitation. Proposals meeting the minimum requirements and complying with the provisions of the Standard Form of Contract will be evaluated in accordance with the procedures described herein and award made to the responsible Offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the Government.



M.2.2 All proposals will be evaluated based on the Demonstrated Relevant Experience, Corporate Experience, Past Performance, Technical and Management Approach, and Price factors.

M.2.3 Proposals will be evaluated with a view toward the award of the contract presenting the most favorable offer to the Government; therefore, proposals must contain such information as may be required to conduct a detailed and thorough evaluation.

M.2.4 The Offeror's proposal must give clear, detailed information sufficient to enable evaluation based on the major factors and subfactors listed below.

M.2.5 Major factors considered in the evaluation of offers are as follows:

M.2.5.1 **Demonstrated Relevant Experience.** This factor will be based upon vendor responses to a set of questions pertaining to actual vendor experience and requirements described in Section C of the RFP.

M.2.5.2 **Corporate Experience.** This factor will be based upon vendor responses to a set of questions pertaining to actual vendor experience and requirements described in Section C of the RFP.

M.2.5.3 **Technical and Management Approach.** Proposals will receive a rating based on the proposed solution for the Home File System, proposed management approach, project support and resource management.

M.2.5.4 **Past Performance.** Proposals will be evaluated based on documented information regarding such factors as quality, timeliness, customer satisfaction, cost control and business practices that the Offeror has demonstrated on projects of a similar scope and value.

M.2.5.5 **Price.** The price proposal will be evaluated for magnitude and realism. Price factors will also be used as a further indication of the Offeror's understanding of the scope of the requirement.

M.3 DEMONSTRATED RELEVANT EXPERIENCE FACTOR

The following subfactors will be used to evaluate the demonstrated relevant experience. The Government will conduct its evaluation by developing a list of strengths and weaknesses. The subfactors listed in Section M.3.1 through M.4.14 are all of equal importance. Offerors will be evaluated on their responses to the subfactors presented in Section L.

M.3.1 Subfactor 1



Offerors will be evaluated on how well it provided a comprehensive and successful integrated approach for addressing a numerical reproducibility problem.

M.3.2 Subfactor 2

Offerors will be evaluated on how well it successfully executed an integrated and comprehensive approach in identifying and resolving a problem at the subcomponent level.

M.3.3 Subfactor 3

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge in managing and executing multiple software upgrades across multiple subcomponents of a system.

M.3.4 Subfactor 4

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful knowledge and in working with other vendors to provide a successful integrated approach for managing facility modifications.

M.3.5 Subfactor 5: Software Performance Optimizations on High Performance Computing System (HPCS)

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge in optimizing applications codes that operate in a HPC environment. Examples of successful performance increases or other efficiencies realized as a direct result of the Offeror's optimizations will be evaluated.

M.3.6 Subfactor 6: Transition-In Task

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience in having managed a successful transition of operations and maintenance of a HPC or other systems, of similar size and scope, from an incumbent Contractor.

M.3.7 Subfactor 7: Operating a Help Desk

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge in operating a help desk that provided technical support for users.

M.3.8 Subfactor 8: Implementing and Managing Batch Scheduling Systems

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge regarding batch scheduling systems and experience in providing a batch scheduling solution for a heterogeneous



environment. Demonstrated knowledge of the market place and available solutions will also be evaluated.

M.3.9 Subfactor 9: Migrating Applications, Users, and Data

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge in successfully migrating applications, users, and data from legacy architecture to a new and different architecture.

M.3.10 Subfactor 10: Operating and Maintaining Large Hierarchical Storage Management Systems (HSMS)

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge presented in operating and maintaining large HSMS.

M.3.11 Subfactor 11: Designing and Implementing Facility Modifications

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge in planning and executing modifications to facilities required for HPC or other IT related requirements of similar size and scope.

M.3.12 Subfactor 12: Managing Electrical Power

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience in managing the electrical power consumption and costs of operating a HPC system.

M.3.13 Subfactor 13: Configuration Management

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge in managing the configurations of HPC systems or other IT systems of similar size and scope.

M.4 CORPORATE EXPERIENCE FACTOR

The following subfactors will be used to evaluate corporate experience. The Government will conduct its evaluation by developing a list of strengths and weaknesses. The following subfactors are of equal importance.

M.4.1 Subfactor 14

Offerors should provide insight into the Offeror's processes for successfully communicating and responding to Government requirements.



M.4.2 Subfactor 15

Offerors will be evaluated on how they propose to successfully represent NOAA's interests, as an honest broker, with its subcontractors.

M.4.3 Subfactor 16

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful knowledge and experience in providing user application support in a geographically distributed environment.

M.4.4 Subfactor 17

Offerors will be evaluated on the flexibility and agility in successfully managing subcontractor risks.

M.4.5 Subfactor 18

Offerors will be evaluated on how they successfully determine the appropriate support levels for systems that they have delivered.

M.4.6 Subfactor 19

Offerors will be evaluated on their approach for successfully incorporating Government participation when conducting technology evaluations.

M.4.7 Subfactor 20: Acquisition and Integration

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience that the proposed organizational unit has successfully delivered and supported HPC resources of similar size and scope. The track record of successfully integrating the subcomponents of a HPC system will also be evaluated.

M.4.8 Subfactor 21: Meeting Service Level Agreements (SLA) and Availability Specifications

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience that shows they have successfully provided solutions that met specific SLA or availability requirements.

M.4.9 Subfactor 22: Meeting Government IT Security Standards and Policies

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge of Federal Government IT security policies, standards, and the certification and accreditation processes.

M.4.10 Subfactor 23: Providing Onsite Operations and Management (O&M) Support



Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience in providing onsite O&M support on similar projects of size and scope, including any experience in providing O&M support in a distributed environment.

M.4.11 Subfactor 24: Managing Documentation

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge in maintaining and creating documentation for a HPC center or other systems, of similar size and scope.

M.4.12 Subfactor 25: Implementing Technical or Engineering Change Proposals

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience in responding to new requirements.

M.4.13 Subfactor 26: Transition-Out Task

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience in having managed a successful transition of operations and maintenance of a HPC or other systems, of similar size and scope, to a successor Contractor.

M.4.14 Subfactor 27: Management of Capacity and Performance

Offerors will be evaluated on demonstrated successful experience and knowledge in managing the capacity and performance of all components involved with a HPC system or IT system of similar size and scope.

M.5 TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT APPROACH FACTOR

The following technical components will be used to evaluate the technical and management requirements. The Government will conduct its evaluation by developing a list of strengths and weaknesses. The following subfactors are of roughly equal importance.

M.5.1 Home File Systems (HFS) for Princeton

Offerors will be evaluated on the HFS solution proposed based on the specifications contained in Section C.

M.5.2 Project Management (PM)

The evaluation will assess the proposed solution by determining how comprehensive and appropriate the strategies are with regard to program execution and integration, as well as organizational



policies, tools and techniques. Offerors will be evaluated on their proposed PM approach as specified in the requirements in Section C. The Project Management Plan provided will be evaluated for completeness and whether or not it addresses the core elements of project management, including but not limited to, schedule management, quality management, process improvement, communications, risk management, and cost management.

M.5.3 Project Support

The evaluation will assess the adequacy of the project support approach, including description of proposed key personnel, staff acquisition and scheduling, continuity of staffing and retention policies. The evaluation will assess the proposed key personnel responsibilities and time each is committed to the project. The Government will evaluate the proposed staff to include their availability, qualifications, experience, and other evidence of their capability to fully and professionally accomplish the project objectives.

M.6 PAST PERFORMANCE

M.6.1. This factor will be evaluated based on the information and opinions gained by contacting the references listed in the proposal, firms with which the Offeror has a history of past performance, and possibly other customers known to the Government and others who may have useful and relevant information. The Government reserves the right not to contact all references provided and to contact other references even though not provided by the Offeror.

M.6.2. The following will be considered:

M.6.2.1 Quality of products or service, compliance with contract requirements, accuracy of reports and technical excellence.

M.6.2.2 Timeliness of performance and reliability.

M.6.2.3 Cost control, remaining within budget, current accurate and complete billing, relationship of negotiated costs to actual, and being cost effective.

M.6.2.4 Satisfaction of customer end users with the Contractor's service.

M.6.2.5 Business relations, management, and effective subcontracting program, reasonable and effective Contractor-recommended solutions.



M.6.3. Assessment of the Offeror's past performance will be one means of evaluating the credibility of the Offeror's proposal, and relative capability to meet performance requirements. Information will also be considered regarding your proposed subcontractor(s).

M.6.4. Evaluation of past performance will include a determination of the Offeror's commitment to customer satisfaction. The basis for the past performance rating will be documented. Prompt corrective action in isolated instances may not outweigh overall negative trends. If an Offeror does not have a past performance history relating to this solicitation, the Offeror will not be evaluated favorably or unfavorably on this factor, and receive a neutral rating.

M.6.5. Past performance will be evaluated for relevancy and quality based upon the five elements described in M.6.2.1 through M.6.2.5. The results of the past performance evaluation may impact the Offeror's overall summary rating.

M.7 PRICE

The price proposal will be evaluated for magnitude and realism, but will not be numerically scored. To be considered acceptable under this solicitation, the Offeror must propose fixed prices and fixed labor rates for the items to be acquired. Proposed discounts and indirect rates will also be evaluated.

M.8 RATING SCHEME

All demonstrated experience, technical and Past Performance portions of proposals will be evaluated using the criteria listed in Table 1 below. Each Offeror will be assigned a Summary Rating determined through evaluation of its proposal.

Unacceptable	<p>PROPOSED APPROACH HAS MANY DEFICIENCIES OR PROPOSED APPROACH IS TOTALLY WITHOUT MERIT.</p> <p>DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE UNACCEPTABLE.</p>
Marginal	<p>PROPOSED APPROACH HAS DEFICIENCIES OR SIGNIFICANT WEAKNESSES, BUT IS CAPABLE OF IMPROVEMENT TO ACCEPTABLE OR BETTER WITHOUT ADOPTION OF NEW APPROACH.</p> <p>NO OR NEUTRAL DEMONSTRATED</p>



	EXPERIENCE.
Acceptable	<p>PROPOSED APPROACH FULLY MEETS THE REQUIREMENT WITH NO DEFICIENCY OR SIGNIFICANT WEAKNESS.</p> <p>DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE MORE POSITIVE THAN NEGATIVE.</p>
Good	<p>PROPOSED APPROACH FULLY MEETS REQUIREMENT AND HAS SOME SUPERIOR FEATURES WITH NO DEFICIENCY OR SIGNIFICANT WEAKNESS.</p> <p>DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE ACCEPTABLE IN ALL AREAS/SUPERIOR IN SEVERAL AREAS.</p>
Outstanding	<p>PROPOSED APPROACH FULLY MEETS REQUIREMENT AND IS SUPERIOR IN MANY FEATURES WITH NO DEFICIENCY OR WEAKNESS.</p> <p>DEMONSTRATED EXPERIENCE ACCEPTABLE IN ALL AREAS/SUPERIOR IN MOST AREAS.</p>

M.9 EVALUATION OF OPTIONS (FAR 52.217-5) (JULY 1990)

Except when it is determined in accordance with FAR 17.206(b) not to be in the Government's best interests, the Government will evaluate offers for award purposes by adding the total price for all options to the total price for the basic requirement. Evaluation of options will not obligate the Government to exercise the option(s).