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- 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:

<http://www.arnet.gov/far>.

#### FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (48 CFR CHAPTER 1)

| NUMBER    | DATE     | TITLE   |
|-----------|----------|---|
| 52.204-6  | OCT 2003 | DATA UNIVERSAL NUMBERING SYSTEM (DUNS) NUMBER                           |
| 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  |
| 52.222-24 | 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 45 days after issuance of this solicitation shall be answered prior to the proposal due date. Any Amendments issued and all response to questions will be posted on Acquisition Management Division's web site at <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov/>.**

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 RDHPCS Q&A web site to contact the person cited in Block 10 of the SF33. The RFP Q&A URL is: <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov/>

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

The Government contemplates award of a fixed-price, lease contract resulting from this solicitation.

## L.5 SUBMISSION OF OFFERS

(a) 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.

Closing Date:

Closing Time: 3:00 PM local time

(b) 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 52.215-01, INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS - COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION.

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

## L.5.1 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 which 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.

(a) 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.

(b) 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. You are to complete those parts which 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 for you to insert such information.

**Three (3) originally executed (i.e., with original signatures) copies of the Standard Form of contract (SF 33) and one (1) copy of Section K fully executed shall be submitted to the following address:**

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer  
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA  
Acquisition Management Division  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 9734  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

#### L.5.2 OFFEROR'S TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

The technical proposal shall be submitted in hard copies and, in addition, on ISO-9660 CDROM, formatted in Portable Document Format (PDF) format. Twelve (12) hard copies and twelve (12) machine readable CDROM copies of the Offeror's technical proposal shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.6.1 to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

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

Two (2) copies of the Offeror's technical proposal (hard copy only) shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.6.1 to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer  
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA  
Acquisition Management Division OFA611  
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

#### L.5.3 OFFEROR'S COST/PRICE PROPOSAL

The Cost/Price proposal shall be submitted in hard copy and, in addition, on ISO-9660 CDROM, formatted in Portable Document Format (PDF) and or Microsoft Excel format. Five (5) hard copies and ten (10) machine readable CDROM copies of the Offeror's Cost/Price Proposal shall be prepared in the format described in this Section L.6.2 and Section B and submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

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

Two (2) hard copies and one machine readable CDROM copy of the Offeror's Cost/Price Proposal shall be submitted in the format prescribed in L.6.2 and Section B to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer  
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA  
Acquisition Management Division  
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

#### L.5.4 PAST PERFORMANCE

The information requested in L.6 PAST PERFORMANCE shall be submitted as follows:

Twelve (12) hard copies and one machine readable CDROM copies shall be submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

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

Two (2) copies shall be submitted to the following address:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer  
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA  
Acquisition Management Division  
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

#### L.5.5 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.14, SUBCONTRACTING SUPPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 95-507, and L.15, 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:

Mail/UPS/FedEx Address and Hand Delivery Address

William L. Voitk, Contracting Officer  
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA  
Acquisition Management Division  
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

#### L.5.6 LIVE TEST DEMONSTRATION

The Government will conduct pre-award Live Test Demonstrations (LTDs) to examine the components of the R&D HPCS that is being offered. **Only those Offerors within the competitive range (See M.1.2) will be scheduled for the LTD.** A LTD system hardware configuration very similar to the proposed R&D HPCS system configuration should be used. A LTD software configuration that is as close as possible to the proposed R&D HPCS configuration, excluding Government provided application codes, must be used and documented. Offerors should clearly state any differences between the LTD hardware and software configurations and the proposed R&D HPCS configuration if the two are not identical. Additional consideration will be given if the LTD system, both hardware and software, is identical to the proposed initial system.

Requirements to be met during the LTD include (but are not limited to):

1) A demonstration of the performance levels of the proposed system in as much detail as possible.

- 2) A demonstration of the features of the architecture which support the extrapolation (if any) to the proposed system from the systems used in the LTD and to supply data for the RFP response.
- 3) Verification of the benchmark data presented in the RFP response.
- 4) Examination of the proposed interactive environment. After the performance data presented in the RFP response has been verified, a scripted interactive session will be run by itself and concurrently with benchmark codes to evaluate how well the interactive resources are isolated from the batch production workload.
- 5) A functional demonstration of the proposed HSM software, separate from the timed benchmark demonstration. This demonstration must show the proposed HSM software in operation, and allow the Government to interact with the demonstration system. The proposed HSM hardware is not required for this demonstration but a limited hardware suite may add to the usefulness of this demonstration and aid in the evaluation of the software.

#### 6.) any others ????

One or more written problems will be presented regarding problem escalation procedures. The Offeror will be required to explain how they would handle the problem(s) as described.

The Government will allocate an Offeror two consecutive days for the LTD. NOAA expects its LTD work to take about six hours. At the discretion of the Government, the LTDs will take place at either the vendor's facility or at a Government facility. If the LTD is held at the vendor's facility the vendor must provide capabilities and resources to allow participation by remote Government personnel. The LTD will begin at 9:00 AM and end no later than 9:00 PM local time on the first day. If the Offeror is unable to successfully complete the LTD on the first day, the LTD will be repeated the second day. Should an Offeror successfully complete a portion(s) of the LTD on the first day, at the Government's discretion, the Offeror may be required to complete only the remaining or unsuccessful portion(s) the second day. If any portion of the LTD is performed on the second day, it will begin not earlier than 9:00 AM local time and will terminate before 3:00 PM. If the Offeror is unable to successfully complete the LTD on the second day, the Government will not provide another opportunity to successfully complete the LTD. Failure to successfully complete the LTD may, but will not necessarily, result in disqualification of the Offeror from further consideration. Such failure may also result in downgrade of the Offeror's proposal.

#### L.6 PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals shall be prepared and submitted as described below.

### L.6.1 TECHNICAL PROPOSALS

The technical proposal must address all the elements in Section C, Statement of Need. The technical 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.

The technical proposal must be organized with sections tabbed and arranged as described below. The arrangement will follow the elements of Section C. The technical proposal, at the least, should describe the Offeror's response to the requirements contained in Section C. The technical proposal should include additional information the Offeror believes will more completely describe their ability to meet NOAA's needs.

The technical proposal must be prepared using the Times New Roman font in 12 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", where section is the Section C section number, and page begins at 1 for each section. The requested hardcopies must be bound.

The technical proposal must use **October 1, 2005, as the start of the** R&D HPCS system life. Upgrades must be specified as "month/year. The acceptance test for each upgrade starts on the first day of the specified month.

The technical proposal must not exceed **100 pages long** (50 sheets of paper when printed double sided). The final revision of the technical 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 (i.e., **yellow-color highlighted**).

If the vendor is proposing the use of a commercial facility as a part of the proposed solution, then a detailed facilities proposal must be submitted in accordance with the specifications found in section C.5.6. The facilities proposal must not exceed to XX pages long (including diagrams and specification sheets).

***The technical proposal organization is provided below. Instructions are provided and Section C text has been paraphrased for the sake of brevity. Offerors must refer to Section C for the full text.***

#### 1.0 Procurement Objectives

Describe an understanding of NOAA's required period of performance for this contract as described in section C.1.

Describe an understanding of NOAA's need for additional processing power to meet increasing mission requirements as described in section C.1.

Describe your understanding of NOAA's need to acquire balanced, comprehensive computing capabilities in order to advance NOAA's research and development activities in environmental modeling as described in section C.1.

Describe your understanding of NOAA's new approach for managing its HPC resources based on its functional requirements as described in C.1.

## 2.0 Benchmarks

Describe how the benchmark requirements described in section C.4.3 will be achieved. Include in the description a detailed plan for meeting the requirements for the initial deliveries for WS7 - WS9 that are required in Q1FY2006 and for the initial deliveries for WS1 - WS6 that are required in Q1FY2007. Include in the description a detailed plan for meeting the requirement for maximum System Life Throughput obtained by a significant mid-life upgrade that will not front-load or back-load performance. The mid-contract upgrades for WS1 – WS6 are desired to occur in Q2 or Q3FY2008. The mid-contract upgrades for WS7 – WS9 are desired to occur during Q4FY2007 or Q1FY2008. Follow the instructions that are described in Section J for submitting benchmark results.

### 2.1 Funding Profile

Describe how the proposed R&D HPCS that is offered will meet the funding profile for each workstream that is identified in section C.4.3 (see Table I).

## 3.0 HPC Sub-system Components

Provide a high level system description of the proposed R&D HPCS that meets the requirements described in section C.5. Describe system components, such as nodes and interconnect fabric, and the overall architecture of the system with particular attention to performance and system dependability. Describe design aspects that maximize performance such as different node types, memory distribution, etc. Include diagrams and specifications of all major sub-system components.

### 3.1 Large Scale Computing Component

Describe how the proposed LSC will meet the requirements described in section C.5.1.1.

### 3.2 Development Component

Describe how the proposed developmental component will meet the requirements described in section C.5.1.2.

### 3.3 Post processing and Analysis Component

Describe how the proposed post processing and analysis component will meet the requirements described in section C.5.1.3.

### 3.4 Data Management Requirement

Describe how the proposed system will provide data integrity and provide at least 99% availability for data access as required in section C.5.2.

#### 3.4.1 Home File System

Describe how the proposed HFS will meet the requirements described in section C.5.2.1.

#### 3.4.2 Fast Scratch File System

Describe how the proposed FSFS will meet the requirements described in section C.5.2.2.

#### 3.4.3 Long Term Scratch File System

Describe how the proposed LTSFS will meet the requirements described in section C.5.2.3.

#### 3.4.4 Hierarchical Storage Management System

Describe how the proposed HSMS will meet the requirements described in section C.5.2.4.

#### 3.4.5 Data Generation Profile

Describe how the proposed data management system will be able to support the data volumes detailed in section C.5.2.5 for each workstream

#### 3.4.6 Data Retention Profile

Describe how the proposed data management system will be able to support the data volumes detailed in Table III in section C.5.2.6.

#### 3.4.7 Automated Backup

Describe the hardware, software, and process that will be used to meet the requirements in section C.5.2.7.

### 3.5 Software Requirements

#### 3.5.1 Resource Management Software

Describe the software that will be implemented to meet the requirements in section C.5.3.1. Indicate whether or not any of the desired features that are mentioned in this section will also be met

with this solution. Include a description of how the software is licensed.

### 3.5.2 Batch Queuing Software

Describe the software that will be implemented to meet the requirements in section C.5.3.2. Indicate whether or not any of the desired features that are mention in this section will also be met with this solution.

### 3.5.3 Programming Environment Software

Describe how the software listed in section C.5.3.3 will be provided and provisioned across the R&D HPCS. Include a description of how the software is licensed.

### 3.5.4 COTS

Describe how the software listed in section C.5.3.4 will be provided and provisioned across the R&D HPCS. Include a description of how the software is licensed.

### 3.5.5 Community Supported Software

Describe how the software listed in section C.5.3.5 will be provided and provisioned across the R&D HPCS. Include a description of how the software is licensed.

## 3.6 Network Requirements

Provide a description and diagram(s) of the proposed network architecture that will be implemented to meet the requirements in section 5.4. Include expected data transfer rates and expected response times.

Describe how the proposed network solution will meet the needs of the categories of users at each of their locations described in section C.5.4.1.

### 3.6.1 User Profile

#### 3.6.1.1 User profile for WS7-WS9

Describe how the network architecture being proposed will meet the requirements described in section C.5.4.1.1.

#### 3.6.1.2 User profile for WS4-WS6

Describe how the network architecture being proposed will meet the requirements described in section C.5.4.1.2.

#### 3.6.1.3 User profile for WS1-WS3

Describe how the network architecture being proposed will meet the requirements described in section C.5.4.1.3.

### 3.6.2 Wide Area Network Component

Describe any additional connectivity that is being provided as a part of the proposed solution in order to meet the requirements in section C.5.4.2. Provide network diagrams and specifications.

Describe how remote users will access the R&D HPCS and specify expected response times that a typical remote user might experience during a typical interactive session.

### 3.6.3 High bandwidth connectivity to model and observation data

Describe how the proposed solution will deliver the data described in section C.5.4.3 to the appropriate works streams. Include diagrams and specifications of any additional network resources that the Offeror is providing to meet this requirement.

## 3.7 IT Security

Describe the IT security hardware, software, and procedures that will be incorporated into the design of the proposed system that meet the requirements of section C.5.5. Provide diagrams and specifications of all equipment that are used.

## 4.0 Reliability and Availability Requirements

In the proposal describe how the Offeror will provide support for the requirements in section C.6.1.

### 4.1 Reliability and Availability

#### 4.1.1 Downtime

Describe your understanding what constitutes downtime and the elements described in section C.6.1.1.

#### 4.1.2 Availability

Describe your understanding of how availability will be measured as described in section C.6.1.2.

## 5.0 Support Services Requirements

### 5.1.1 Support

Describe support structure that will be implemented to meet the 96% system availability as described in section C.7.1.

### 5.1.2 Training

Describe how the training requirements listed in section C.7.2 will be met.

## 6.0 Project Management Requirements

Give a brief description of how the project is to be organized, staffed, and managed, identifying all subcontractors.

State the number of software engineers, hardware engineers, and applications analysts proposed, and describe their qualifications and duties.

## 7.0 Documentation Requirements

### 7.1.1 Transition to “One NOAA”

NOAA requires the Offeror to provide a transition plan over the term of the base period of this contract to move NOAA from its current organization-based business processes toward the “One NOAA” approach identified in section C.9.1. The transition plan will identify the approach to be followed; to the various components to be used; the phasing of the various components; the testing plan; and the final state of the transition at the end of the base period. The vendor will include use cases describing how the user will work at the various phases of the implementation of the integration. In proposing a solution, the vendor shall identify the costs and the performance trade-offs necessary to implement the solution.

### 7.1.2 Contract Transition Plans

Provide a detailed description and plan covering the transition period from the existing contract to this new contract.

### 7.1.3 Configuration Management Plan

Provide a detailed description of how the configuration management of the R&D HPCS will be maintained over the life of the contract.

## 8.0 Contract Options

### 8.1.1 Option period

The Offeror should describe their understanding of how the 4 year option period described in section C.9.1 would be exercised.

### 8.1.2 One year option

The Offeror should describe their understanding of how the 1 year option period described in sections C.9.2 and C.9.3 would be exercised.

### 8.1.3 Additional R&D HPCS Augmentations

Describe how the Offeror will meet the requirements for implementing an ID/IQ mechanism for meeting the requirements described in section C.9.4.

### 8.1.4 Engineering Support

Describe how the Offeror will provide the engineering support as described in section C.9.5.

**EXCEPTIONS**

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

**OFFEROR QUALIFICATIONS**

Give a brief description of the Offeror addressing the qualifications, experience, and corporate resources that allow the Offeror to satisfy the Government's requirements.

**L.6.2 COST PROPOSALS**

As stated in Section B, the Government anticipates leasing the equipment during the base contract period and option periods. However, the Government shall own the HSM at the end of the base period of performance and each option period.

Offerors are required to provide detailed pricing proposals that include all cost elements by month (e.g., lease cost, hardware maintenance, software maintenance, on-site support, etc.). Offerors are required to submit separate pages for each contract year depicting all costs. If alternate methods of acquisition are proposed, a separate proposal for each acquisition method must be submitted.

The Offeror is required to include the following in its cost/price proposal:

A. Price for hardware by item.

B. Price for software. Provide monthly pricing for each item of software offered. Indicate if it is leased software or purchased software.

C. A breakout by labor category of all services proposed (e.g., hardware maintenance, software maintenance, on-site applications analyst, etc.) and total price for each item. A separate breakout is required for each year of the base contract period.

D. A detailed description and breakout of any other price proposed.

E. Demonstrated understanding of NOAA's workstream funding profiles provided in Section C.4.3 by completing a breakout by requirement and workstream for each year of the base contract period according to the following spreadsheet (template provided here is only for CLIN0001) . Total across all cells should equal yearly contract cost, and subtotals by workstream should equal the funding profile provided in Table I Section C.4.3. An explanation of how the entries were calculated, sufficient for the government to crosswalk between this table and the information provided in the Cost Proposal for items A-D above, is required.

## CLIN0001

| Component                                    | Section C<br>reference | WS1                         | WS2     | WS3 | WS4 | WS5 | WS6 | WS7 | WS8 | WS9 | TOTAL |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
|  |                        | Large-Scale Computing (LSC) | C.5.1.1 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Development Component                        | C.5.1.2                |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Post-Processing and Analysis Component       | C.5.1.3                |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Home File System (HFS)                       | C.5.2.1                |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Scratch File Systems                         | C.5.2.2-3              |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Hierarchical Storage Management System       | C.5.2.4                |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Automated Backup                             | C.5.2.7                |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Software                                     | C.5.3                  |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| WAN  | C.5.4.2                |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Connectivity to model and observational data | C.5.4.3                |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Facilities                                   | C.5.6                  |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Support services and training                | C.7                    |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Project planning                             | C.8                    |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Labor  | -                      |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| ODC  | -                      |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Other (explain)                              | -                      |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 |                        |                             |         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |

If proposed, cost information for each subcontractor and consultant shall be furnished in the same format and level of detail as prescribed for the prime Offeror. Additionally, the Offeror shall submit the following information:

1. A description of the items to be furnished by the subcontractor.
2. Identification of the proposed subcontractor and an explanation of why and how the proposed subcontractor was selected including the extent of competition obtained.
3. The proposed subcontract price, the Offeror's cost or price analysis thereof, and performance/delivery schedule.
4. Identification of the type of subcontract to be used.

Offerors are not required to submit certified cost or pricing data with their cost proposal. Full- and-open competition is expected which will be used to determine prices fair and reasonable. However, Offerors may be requested to provide additional information in the event prices appear over-stated or under-stated.

Offerors are required to submit cost/price proposals based upon the **\$368 Million funding profile presented in the Project Agreement**. This profile includes the price of the support services (i.e., hardware/maintenance support and on-site support personnel) for the base contract period and option periods.

### L.6.3 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) and no more than seven (7) **relevant** contracts of a similar nature and magnitude within the past three (3)

years. The Offeror shall discuss how its previous experience prepares it to undertake a contract of the scope envisioned in this solicitation. The Offeror must provide information to assist the Government in assessing its ability to perform the contract as proposed.

The "Performance Evaluation Report" contained in Section J.2 of this solicitation will be used by the Government to collect this information. References other than those identified by the Offeror may be contacted by the Government with the information received used in evaluating the Offeror's past performance. The following information is required from all contracts cited as evidence of past performance:

Procurement activity and address

Procuring Contracting Officer's name, telephone number and address

Technical Point of Contact's name, telephone number and address

Contract No.

Type of contract

Award price

Final price

The Technical Point of Contact must possess specialized technical knowledge of the high-performance computing components covered under the respective contract.

#### 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

#### L.9 PRE-AWARD SURVEY

The Government reserves the right for a survey team to visit the Offeror's facility(s) for the purpose of determining the technical and financial ability to perform. A current financial statement and other data pertinent to this purpose should be available at the time the team makes the visit. The team will also consider the technical and financial ability of

proposed subcontractors. Examples of the type of technical, financial and other capability matters the team will-evaluate are (1) past experience with firm, (2) financial strength, (3) facilities, (4) ability to meet required delivery schedule, (5) subcontracting, (6) manpower availability and labor relations, (7) management controls and (8) any other areas pertinent to this offer.

#### **L.10 ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS**

The Government reserves the right:

1. To consider as acceptable only those proposals submitted in accordance with all technical requirements set forth or referenced in this solicitation and which demonstrate an understanding of the problems involved and the scope of the project.
2. To reject, as unacceptable, proposals deleting or altering technical requirements which are considered by the Government not to be beyond the state of the art nor impossible to attain.

#### **L.11 UNACCEPTABLE OFFER TRANSMISSION METHODS**

Neither telegraphic (including mailgrams), telefax, nor e-mail offers are authorized.

#### **L.12 AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSALS**

Any changes to a proposal made by the Offeror after its initial submittal shall be accomplished by replacement pages. Changes from the original page shall be indicated on the outside margin by vertical lines adjacent to the change. The Offeror shall include the date of the amendment on the lower right corner of the changed pages.

#### **L.13 FINAL PROPOSAL REVISION**

Upon completion of negotiations, all Offerors still within the competitive range will be requested to submit a final proposal revision. Following evaluation of final proposal revisions, the Offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the Government, considering the evaluation factors specified in Section M, will be selected for contract award.

#### **L.14 SUBCONTRACTING SUPPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 95-507**

(a) 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.

(b) The following are the minimum goals for this acquisition:

1. Subcontracts to small business firms ---- 12.0%

2. Subcontracts to minority-owned firms ---- 7.0%
3. Subcontracts to women-owned businesses --- 1.0%

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

#### L.15 HUBZONE SUBCONTRACTING GOALS

(A) The Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones) Act of 1997 created the HUBZone Program. The purpose of this program is to provide federal contracting assistance for qualified small business concerns located in historically underutilized business zones in an effort to increase employment opportunities, investments, and economic development in these areas. Only those contractors listed on the Small Business Administration's PRO-Net site (<http://www.sba.gov>) at the time of contract award are qualified HUBZone contractors and can be considered by contractors in meeting their HUBZone small business subcontracting goals.

(B) The HUBZone goals established for the Department of Commerce are as follows:

1. FY2002 - 2.5% of the total value of the prime contract
2. FY2003 and subsequent years - 3.0% of the total value of the prime contract

#### L.16 INCURRING COSTS

The Government is not liable for any costs incurred by Offerors in submitting offers in response to this solicitation. Proposal costs may be included in an Offeror's indirect rates as appropriate.

#### L.17 SERVICE OF PROTEST (FAR 52.233-2) (AUG 1996)

(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 General Accounting 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<br>U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA<br>Acquisition Management Division OFA611<br>1315 East West Highway, Room 9734<br>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.18 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 Street, N.W. and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230  
ATTN: Mark Langstein  
FAX (202) 482-5858

L.19 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/conops/reflib/alp1296.htm>) 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. Voitek, Contracting Officer  
U. S. Department of Commerce/NOAA  
Acquisition Management Division OFA611  
1315 East West Highway, Room 9734  
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.20 INVITATION TO PROPOSE FINANCING TERMS (FAR 52.232-31)(OCT 1995)

(a) The Offeror is invited to propose terms under which the Government shall make contract financing payments during contract performance. The financing terms proposed by the Offeror shall be a factor in the evaluation of the Offeror's proposal. The financing terms of the successful Offeror and the clause, Terms for Financing of Purchases of Commercial Items, at FAR 52.232-29, shall be incorporated in any resulting contract.

(b) The Offeror agrees that in the event of any conflict between the terms proposed by the Offeror and the terms in the clause at Terms for Financing of Purchases of Commercial Items, at FAR 52.232-29, the terms of the clause at 52.232-29 shall govern.

(c) Because of statutory limitations (10 U.S.C. 2307(f) and 41 U.S.C. 255(f)), the Offeror's proposed financing shall not be accepted if it does not conform to the following limitations:

(1) Delivery payments shall be made only for supplies delivered and accepted, or services rendered and accepted in accordance with the payment terms of this contract;

(2) Contract financing payments shall not exceed 15 percent of the contract price in advance of any performance of work under the contract;

(3) The terms and conditions of the contract financing must be appropriate and customary in the commercial marketplace; and

(4) The terms and conditions of the contract financing must be in the best interest of the United States.

(d) The Offeror's proposal of financing terms shall include the following:

(1) The proposed contractual language describing the contract financing (see FAR 32.202-2 for appropriate definitions of types of payments); and

(2) A listing of the earliest date and greatest amount at which each contract financing payment may be payable and the amount of each delivery payment. Any resulting contract shall provide that no contract financing payment shall be made at any earlier date or in a greater amount than shown in the Offeror's listing.

(e) The Offeror's proposed prices and financing terms shall be evaluated to determine the cost to the United States of the proposal using the interest rate and delivery scheduled specified elsewhere in this solicitation.

## L.21 NOTICE TO OFFERORS

This Solicitation is issued pursuant to a U.S. Department of Commerce Concept of Operations (CONOPS) Project Agreement. The full text of the Project Agreement for this acquisition is located at the following web site: <http://rdhpcs.noaa.gov/>

**L.22 ALTERNATE PROPOSALS**

Offerors may submit more than one proposal, as long as one proposal satisfies all of the mandatory requirement of the solicitation. As a minimum, one of the proposals submitted must be complete. The alternate proposal(s) may be in an abbreviated form following the same section format, but providing only those sections which differ in any way from those contained in the original proposal. Each proposal will include cost tables

indicating the complete range of pricing options. In the case of price/cost options for a given configuration, an alternate proposal will not be required. If alternate proposals are submitted, such alternatives will be clearly labeled and identified on the cover page of each separate document. The reason for each alternate and its comparative benefits shall be explained. Each proposal submitted will be evaluated on its own merits. Alternate proposals may be no more than 100 pages in length.

Alternate proposals may be submitted within 30 calendar days from the proposal closing date and time specified in L.5, SUBMISSION OF OFFERS. Alternate proposals received during this 30 day period will only be accepted if the primary proposal was received by the closing date and time specified.

### L.23 FACILITY PLANS and DRAWINGS

Provide a facility proposal that meets the requirements described in section C.5.6.

Instructions for submitting plans for utilizing facilities other than the Government facilities described in section C.5.6.

- The Contractor's proposal must include a description of the proposed facilities, including:
  - 1) A copy of the site operating plan
  - 2) A copy of the security procedures
  - 3) A guarantee of the maximum number of facility incidents and annual outage time
  - 4) A statement documenting any single points of failure in computer conditioning
  - 5) A description of how NOAA remote computer operators will be informed of deteriorating facility conditions such as rising room temperatures or an air handler failure
  - 6) A copy of the disaster recovery plan
  - 7) One-line (logic) diagrams of the electrical service and cooling service
  - 8) An energy density (watts per square foot) projection plotted over the contract life
  - 9) A spreadsheet listing the type and age of facility equipment to be used. Examples are: UPS systems and power conditioners, chillers, heat exchangers, air handlers.
  - 10) A copy of the contract statement of work for any commercial facility management company used, or the equivalent if preformed in-house. PM schedules, proactive inspections, and quality assurance methods are examples.
  - 11) A brief (2-3 paragraphs) description of the procedures used to acquire off-site emergency service including minimum response times and escalation procedures
  - 12) A statement (one paragraph) as to how coverage and services are made available after-hours and on holidays

- 13) A statement (paragraph) projecting the minimum UPS power protection period (survival time) when utility power fails. The worst-case instance covers full functionality of the system(s), and over the entire period of performance (i.e., should load vary during the contract, or should battery performance decline due to age).
  - 14) A brief description of the fire protection systems and certification standards
  - 15) A list of design standards complied with by the facility architect (see above)
  - 16) A brief description of any automated facility controls such as computer-managed failover systems
  - 17) A brief description of quality assurance control processes for defect corrections
  - 18) A brief description of the tools used by management to track performance of service level commitments and to manage the facility (Examples: CAD programs, equipment inventory management software, capacity planning and tracking, etc.)
  - 19) A bio (curriculum vitae) of the facility manager's experience and training
  - 20) A description of facility alterations and changes to be made to the offered space if the Offeror is successful
  - 21) Cost data as described above
- The Government reserves the right to conduct site visits of all proposed facilities during the procurement evaluation. During the site visit, the Government may inspect:
    - 1) Mechanical rooms
    - 2) Raised floor plenums; drainage; cable tracks, labeling, and management
    - 3) Network cabling protection and redundancy provisions
    - 4) Power and cooling distribution and control systems
    - 5) Logs of equipment failures, corrective actions taken and maintenance results
    - 6) Preventive maintenance schedules
    - 7) Emergency plans, and results of drills
    - 8) Testing procedures and schedules
    - 9) Training provided to facility managers, maintenance and security personnel
    - 10) Safety and fire protection equipment and operation
    - 11) Any other relevant materials that will enable the government to assess the reliability and safety of the facility