24 September 2021

Attention: To All Offerors

Subject: **Request for Proposal (RFP) Number B644990**

Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (hereinafter called “LLNS”) requests a fixed price proposal in accordance with this RFP and the enclosed Sample Subcontract.

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (hereinafter called “LLNL”) is managed by LLNS and operates under LLNS procurement policies and procedures consistent with the Prime Contract between LLNS and the United States Government, represented by the Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration (hereinafter called “DOE/NNSA”). Any award resulting from this proposal will be a Subcontract under the Prime Contract.

LLNS reserves its rights to: (i) make selection on the basis of initial proposals; (ii) negotiate with a single offeror for any reason; (iii) negotiate with multiple offerors for any reason; and (iv) cancel this RFP at any time, for any reason, without cost to LLNS. LLNS will not reimburse Offerors for expenses incurred in responding to this RFP.

1. RFP Summary TABLE & OBJECTIVE STATEMENT

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| --- | --- |
| **RFP Title:** | Next-Generation High Performance Computing Network (NG-HPCN) Research & Development (R&D) |
| **RFP Website:** | <https://hpc.llnl.gov/next-generation-high-performance-computing-network-rfp>  |
| **LLNL Work Site Location:** | 7000 East AvenueLivermore, CA 94550 |
| **Site Inspection Date & Time:** | N/A |
| **Offeror’s Questions Due Date:** | 10-18-21 before 12PM Pacific Time |
| **Proposal Due Date & Time:** | 10-25-21 at 2PM Pacific Time |
| **Contract Analyst:** | Gary M. Wardward31@llnl.gov  | Phone: (925) 423-5952 |
| **Proposal Content and Format:** | Refer to the Proposal Evaluation & Proposal Preparation Instructions (PEPPI) ENCLOSURE |
| **Proposal Submission:** | Refer to Section 4.0 below |
| **Proposal Evaluation:** | Refer to Section 3.0 below |

**OBJECTIVE STATEMENT**

It is in the interest of the United States Government to maintain a viable and robust domestic High Performance Computing (HPC) ecosystem based, in part, on: (i) technology innovation / development fostered by the commercial marketplace; (ii) public / private partnerships to accelerate technology innovation / development that commercial marketplace incentives may not prioritize; and (iii) multiple viable sources for key / essential HPC technology, such as NG-HPCN technology. Therefore, LLNS requests proposals in accordance with this RFP to foster NG-HPCN technology innovation / development.

1. RFP Provisions

NOTICE OF SMALL BUSINESS SET-ASIDE

Proposals are solicited only from small business concerns, as defined in FAR Subpart 2.101. Proposals received from Offerors that are not small business concerns will not be considered and any awards resulting from this solicitation will be made to a small business concern. If an Offeror’s small business status changes after submission of its proposal but prior to award of the subcontract, the Offeror shall notify the Contract Analyst as soon as possible.

NAICS CODE and small business size standard

### The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS Code) for this acquisition is 541715, Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology). The corresponding small business size standard for this acquisition is 1,000 employees or fewer.

The Offeror shall base its Small Business Program Representations on this small business size standard when completing the Representations & Certifications ENCLOSURE document. Refer to Subpart 19.1 - *Size Standards* of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) for information on calculating number of employees.

**FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

Funding for this acquisition is not currently available. While there is no funding guarantee, LLNS anticipates funding may become available: (i) up to $18,000,000 during the GFY22 to GFY24 timeframe; and (ii) in a manner that will allow the successful Offeror to perform continuously until completion.

**SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM) REGISTRATION**

SAM is the primary Government repository for Federal awardee information. Offerors who are currently not registered in SAM should consider applying for registration upon receipt of this solicitation at [https://www.sam.gov](https://www.sam.gov/). Registration does not guarantee business with LLNS or any federal agency.

Offeror Questions

Offerors shall submit questions in writing via email to the LLNS Contract Analyst (ward31@llnl.gov) on or before the Offeror’s Questions Due Date. Questions received by this date will be responded to by LLNS. Answers to questions that are germane to the interpretation of LLNS’ requirements will be issued in writing and posted to the RFP Website.

AMENDMENT OF DOCUMENTS

The terms and conditions of this RFP may be amended only by the LLNS Contract Analyst via written amendment to the RFP. Any such written amendment shall become part of this RFP.

Offerors are advised to monitor the RFP Website for potential RFP amendments and other RFP information updates. LLNS may notify Interested offerors (who have previously contacted LLNS and expressed interest in the RFP) of updated RFP information via e-mail; however, LLNS is under no obligation to do so. It is the responsibility of all Interested offerors to monitor the RFP Website for current RFP information

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Submission of a proposal shall indicate the Offeror’s acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Sample Subcontract and its attachments. These terms and conditions have been approved by the DOE/NNSA. Failure to accept the terms and conditions may result in significant, unacceptable delays in award of a Subcontract which could cause LLNS to reject Offeror’s proposal.

Proposal Acceptance

Acceptance of late proposals will be at the sole discretion of LLNS. LLNS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to waive any minor irregularities in any proposal. Proposals shall be valid for at least 90 days after the proposal due date.

PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

LLNS will treat all commercial, financial or technical information that is properly marked in a proposal in response to this RFP as proprietary information; however, LLNS prefers not to receive any proprietary information. The Subcontractor shall mark each page containing commercial, financial or technical information as “Proprietary” or its equivalent.

LLNS will use its best efforts to (1) maintain such proprietary information in confidence, giving it the same degree of care, but no less than a reasonable degree of care, as LLNS exercises with its own proprietary information to prevent its unauthorized disclosure; and (2) only disclose such proprietary information to its employees, agents, consultants, subcontractors, or other U.S. Government contractors on a “need to know” basis. In addition to the above, the Offeror agrees that from time to time, consistent with the terms of LLNS’ prime contract with the U.S. Government, LLNS may release proprietary information to Government personnel who administer LLNS’ prime contract. Government personnel in receipt of proprietary information are subject to confidentiality requirements pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1905.

Offerors are advised that personnel from the following national laboratories may review Offeror proposals and participate in the proposal evaluation process.

* Triad National Security LLC, manager and operator of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
* National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC (NTESS), manager and operator of Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)

SALES TAX

Items acquired (if any) under this Subcontract are for resale to the U.S. Government and are exempt from state sales and use tax per California State Resale Permit No. SR-CH 100-978248. LLNS will provide the Subcontractor a California Resale Certificate, for use in acquiring such items, upon request.

**OPERATIONAL STATUS**

On-site work at LLNL is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which means that site access to LLNL by LLNS employees and subcontractors and other guests is restricted. LLNS follows evolving directions from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and other authorities, including local and state government health orders and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control. Consequently, LLNL’s operational mode is dynamic, and may change with or without advance notice. Offerors are advised that the Laboratory’s operational status could change prior to, and after award of a subcontract. Health and safety requirements for Subcontractor on-site work may be updated after award.

**MILESTONE PAYMENTS**

LLNS will consider milestone payments for this acquisition; however, such payments must conform to the following guidelines.

* They cannot represent advance payments. They must represent the value LLNS will receive upon making the payment.
* They must be in accordance with readily verifiable milestones (e.g., refer to the Milestone Payment Schedule of the Sample Subcontract).
* If / when multiple milestone payments are associated with an end deliverable item, the last milestone payment for that deliverable item must be 20% or more of the total deliverable item price.

Payment Terms

The proposal shall also include invoice payment terms. LLNS prefers payment terms of 2%15, Net 30 Days.

**EQUAL EMPLOPYMENT PRE-AWARD COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION FORM**

An award in the amount of $10 million or more will not be made under this solicitation unless the successful Offeror and each of its known first-tier subcontractors to whom it intends to award a Subcontract of $10 million or more are found, on the basis of a compliance review conducted by the responsible government agency, to be able to comply with the provisions of the Equal Opportunity clause in the General Provisions of the Sample Subcontract.

If the Offeror’s proposal is valued at $10 million or more, and the Offeror is not otherwise exempt from this requirement, and is not listed in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) National Pre-Award Registry, available on the Internet at https://ofccp.dol-esa.gov/preaward/pa\_reg.html, then the Offeror shall complete and submit with its proposal the attached Pre-Award Compliance Certification form, along with the information stipulated in the form.

1. Proposal Evaluation & proposal Preparation Instructions

Refer to the Proposal Evaluation & Proposal Preparation Instructions (PEPPI) ENCLOSURE for information about the basis for award, evaluation factors, requirement category descriptions / definitions, proposal preparation instructions, and other corresponding information.

The terms ‘Mandatory Requirements’ (MRs) and ‘Target Requirements’ (TRs) are addressed in the PEPPI and are further identified in the Draft Statement of Work (SOW) ENCLOSURES. These terms have a significant role in this RFP. Offeror should carefully consider these terms during its proposal preparation process.

The PEPPI includes evaluation criteria that states preference for award to a domestic corporation / LLC over a foreign corporation / LLC. By ‘preference’, this means that if LLNS determines a proposal from a foreign corporation / LLC and a proposal from a domestic corporation / LLC rate relatively equal in terms of price and non-price evaluative factors, then LLNS will resolve any such tie-breaker circumstance by selecting the domestic corporation / LLC for award.

LLNS does not anticipate a need for Certified Cost or Pricing Data (as defined at FAR Part 15); however, LLNS reserves the right to request submission of Certified Cost or Pricing Data from the successful Offeror.

1. Proposal submission

Separate Technical, Price, and Business proposals and any other applicable proposal documentation shall also be sent electronically via email as separate document files to the LLNS Contract Analyst (ward31@llnl.gov) on or before the Proposal Due Date and Time. Microsoft Word, Excel or pdf documents are preferred. Please do not send zip files.

1. Enclosures

\* The documents and forms marked with an asterisk (if any) are available on-line at the following website: <https://supplychain.llnl.gov/> (under Supplier Information, select either General Provisions & Forms, or Special Provisions).

The following documents are hereby incorporated as a part of this RFP and need not be returned with the proposal:

Sample Subcontract and its Incorporated Documents

Proposal Evaluation & Proposal Preparation Instructions (PEPPI)

Certificate of Current Cost or Pricing Data (*LLNS may request of the successful Offeror*)

Offeror is hereby reminded to complete / sign (where applicable) and return the following with its proposal:

Draft Statement of Work (as part of Offeror’s Technical Proposal)

Price Proposal Spreadsheet

Offeror Terms & Conditions Position

Equal Employment Opportunity Pre-Award Compliance Certification Form

Representations & Certifications Form

Please contact me (ward31@llnl.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Ward

LLNS Contract Analyst