08 July 2020

Attention: Interested Offerors

Subject: **Request for Proposal (RFP) Number B640169**

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.

RFP Summary

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **RFP Title:** | Commodity Technology Systems-2 (CTS-2) | |
| **RFP Website:** | <https://hpc.llnl.gov/cts-2-rfp> | |
| **Work Site Locations:** | Refer to the enclosed Sample Subcontract | |
| **Site Inspection Date & Time:** | N/A | |
| **Offeror’s Questions Due Date:** | 08-18-20 by close of business Pacific Time | |
| **Proposal Due Date & Time:** | 08-25-20 by 2pm Pacific Time | |
| **Contract Analyst (primary):** | Sherill Kazadzis  [kazadzis1@llnl.gov](mailto:kazadzis1@llnl.gov) | Phone: 925-424-3571 |
| **Contract Analyst (secondary):** | Gary Ward  [ward31@llnl.gov](mailto:ward31@llnl.gov) | Phone: 925-423-5953 |
| **Proposal Content and Format:** | Refer to the enclosed Proposal Evaluation & Proposal Preparation Instructions (PEPPI) | |
| **Proposal Evaluation:** | Refer to the enclosed PEPPI | |

Please refer to RFP Information & Proposal Submittal Instructions, which follow this letter.

If there are any questions, please contact me by phone or e-mail (contact information provided in the RFP Summary table above).

Sincerely,

Sherill Kazadzis

LLNS Contract Analyst

**RFP INFORMATION & Proposal SUBMITTAL Instructions**

**NOTICE**

Interested offerors must submit all communication (questions, comments, etc.) about this RFP to the LLNS Contract Analysts, whose contact information is provided in the RFP Summary table above. The CTS-2 market survey phase is complete; therefore, interested offerors are not permitted direct communication with the Tri-Lab CTS-2 technical community, except for established / regular business activities that do not pertain to this RFP.

**REFERENCES**

Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Triad National Security, LLC at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), and National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC at Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) are collectively referred to as either “Tri-Laboratory”, “Tri-Laboratories”, “Tri-Lab”, or “Tri-Labs” in this RFP.

**SU ARCHITECURES & TRI-LAB DECISION POINT**

The Tri-Labs desire Scalable Units (SUs) primarily consisting of latest generation commodity off-the-shelf components. The Tri-Labs may also consider incorporating one or more key technology advancements / components not generally available (GA) in the marketplace at the time of initial subcontract award. Therefore, the RFP and its Sample Subcontract are structured to allow offerors to propose multiple SU / system architectures / configurations (i.e. Plan A, Plan B), and to enable the Tri-Labs to: (i) include (as options) multiple SU / system architectures / configurations in initial subcontract award; (ii) a period to evaluate corresponding non-GA technology of each particular SU / system architecture / configuration; and (iii) subsequently select the particular SU / system architecture / configuration best suited for DOE / Tri-Lab mission needs. Refer to Sample Subcontract Articles 4 and 5 for related information.

Examples of potential non-GA technologies of interest to the Tri-Labs are future / emerging networking and processor technologies an offeror may propose for delivery to the Tri-Labs commencing in 3QCY21.

Offerors will complete / submit the RFP’s Price Schedule to identify their proposed SU / system architecture / configuration and prices. Offerors will submit one Price Schedule per SU / system architecture / configuration proposed. The Price Schedule(s) will be a firm and binding part of offeror proposals.

**TECHNOLOGY EVOLUTION INFUSION**

Technology evolves over time. Advancements happen. The Tri-Labs need the ability to infuse initial subcontract SU / system configurations with new technology as advancements happen during the lifetime of the subcontract.

For the selected SU / system architecture / configuration, the Tri-Labs have less interest in a static SU / system architecture / configuration that remains fixed during the lifetime of the subcontract, and more interest in a dynamic SU / system architecture / configuration that can accommodate infusion of substantive new technology as advanced technology becomes GA during the lifetime of the subcontract.

Offerors will complete / submit the RFP’s Future Component Projection to identify non-GA / projected future technology offerors recommend the Tri-Lab consider for potential future upgrade to / incorporation within the subcontract’s (selected) SU / system architecture / configuration. The Future Component Projection will identify (grouped by OEM) projected future components, projected availability periods, and projected prices.

It is important to note a key difference between the RFP’s Price Schedule and the RFP’s Future Component Projection. While the Price Schedule is a firm and binding part of offerors’ proposal response, the Future Component Projection is not.

The Future Component Projection is intended for offerors to inform the Tri-Labs of projected future technology that is considered worthwhile, but too uncertain / unknown (at the time of initial proposal submission) for offerors to be confident to commit to (from a capability / price / delivery perspective) in the Price Schedule(s). Again, the Future Component Projection is informational in nature, and is not a firm and binding part of an offeror’s proposal.

Funding availability

Funding is not currently available for the CTS-2 acquisition. LLNS anticipates that funding will become available for SU / system acquisitions and service, as described in the Sample Subcontract and Draft Statement of Work (SOW).

**GENERAL**

The proposal shall be forwarded by a cover letter that identifies the Offeror’s name and address, RFP number and title, the name(s), title(s), and telephone number(s) of the individuals in Offeror’s organization who have commitment authority on behalf of the Offeror and will be responsible for contractual negotiations and administration of any resulting Subcontract.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Refer the Proposal Evaluation and Proposal Preparation Instructions (PEPPI) for detailed information

The PEPPI contains detailed and specific instructions on what must be included in the proposal. It is extremely important to note that the Draft SOW and the PEPPI must be used together. The draft SOW contains technical requirements for CTS-2 SU / systems and the PEPPI describes how an Offeror must respond to those technical requirements. The PEPPI also addresses how an Offeror must respond in its proposal to technical, business, pricing and other requirements of this RFP.

PEPPI Section 1, in part, describes proposal evaluation criteria. PEPPI Section 2 describes the overall format for each proposal volume. PEPPI Section 3 describes what information to include in the technical proposal, and how Offerors must respond to the CTS-2 technical requirements of the draft SOW. PEPPI Section 4 describes what information to include in the business proposal. PEPPI Section 5 has been reserved. PEPPI Section 6 describes what information to include in the price proposal. PEPPI Section 7 addresses miscellaneous information offerors will submit in their proposal Volume IV. PEPPI Section 8 describes what financial information will be provided by offerors.

The terms Mandatory Requirement and Target Requirement are defined and used throughout the PEPPI and draft SOW. The Draft SOW includes two Mandatory Requirements, located in Section 3.2.1 ‘CTS-2 Scalable Unit’ and Section 3.2.10.6 ‘Firmware Security’.

**BASIS FOR SELECTION**

Refer to PEPPI Section 1 for detailed information.

**UNITED KINGDOM & FRANCE CTS-2 PARTNERS**

Offerors are advised that government agencies of the United Kingdom (U.K.) and France are interested in the selected CTS-2 technology, and in possibly acquiring CTS-2 SUs / systems from the selected offeror under separate U.K.’ and France’ contracting vehicles. The Tri-Labs wish to further their partnership with the U.K. and France CTS-2 partners. Offerors will, therefore, identify CTS-2 technologies that are subject to export control regulations and their relevant, control categories as instructed in PEPPI Section 2 (Volume III). Offerors are advised that all proposals submitted in response to this RFP will be made available by the Tri-Labs to the U.K. and France CTS-2 partners for their review and consideration subject to U.S. export control laws and regulations. The Offeror’s action of submitting a proposal will constitute the Offeror’s consent for the Tri-Labs to release its proposal(s) to the U.K. and France CTS-2 partners. The Tri-Labs expect the selected offeror to directly engage the U.K. and France CTS-2 partners for possible sale(s) of resulting CTS-2 SUs / systems, and to extend pricing (with reasonable adjustments for additional support requirements and export related expense) the selected offeror negotiates with the Tri-Labs to the U.K and France CTS-2 partners.

NAICS CODE and small business size standard

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS Code) for this acquisition is 334111, Electronic Computer Manufacturing. If the Offeror is an original equipment manufacturer (OEM), the small business size standard for this acquisition is 1,250 employees or fewer. If the Offeror is a reseller/distributor, the small business size standard is 500 employess or fewer.

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

**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 RFP at [https://www.sam.gov](https://www.sam.gov/). Registration does not guarantee business with LLNS or any federal agency.

OFFEROR QUESTIONS

LLNS will respond to questions submitted in writing to the LLNS Contract Analysts on or before the date / time identified in the RFP Summary table above. Questions submitted after this date may not be answered. Questions may be submitted by email to the LLNS Contract Analysts ( [kazadzis1@llnl.gov](mailto:kazadzis1@llnl.gov) ). Answers to questions that are germane to the interpretation of the Tri-Labs’ requirements will be posted to the CTS-2 RFP website, the location of which is identified in the RFP Summary table above. Answers to questions that are specific to an Offeror’s competitive bid strategy or proprietary technology will not be posted to the RFP website, as such answers will only be shared (i.e., limited distribution) with the Offeror that submitted the questions. It will be LLNS’ sole right and discretion to determine which questions and answers qualify for website distribution or for limited distribution.

OFFEROR NOTICE

Within 10 days of the RFP release date, Offeror should notify the primary LLNS Contract Analyst via email at [kazadzis1@llnl.gov](mailto:kazadzis1@llnl.gov) of its intent to submit a proposal(s). Offeror’ notice must identify the name and contact information of Offeror’s primary representative for all CTS-2 RFP related communication.

AMENDMENT OF DOCUMENTS

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

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

LLNS reserves the right to: (i) reject any or all proposals; (ii) request revised proposals from any or all Offerors ; (ii) negotiate with any or all Offerors; (iii) waive any minor irregularities in any proposal; and (iv) cancel this RFP at any time, for any reason, and without cost to LLNS. This RFP does not include provisions for the direct reimbursement of proposal preparation costs. LLNS’ selection may be made on the basis of initial proposals. Proposals shall be valid for at least 120 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. Proper marking requires that each page containing commercial, financial or technical information be marked “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, Government personnel, personnel at other participating U.S. national laboratories, and U.K. and France CTS-2 Partners personnel who have a need to know related to this RFP and are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

**TAXES**

Offerors are advised that the CTS-2 acquisition will involve deliveries to, and service to be performed in, the states of New Mexico and California. Refer to the Sample Subcontract for related tax terms and conditions.

Offerors shall separately price training service, and hardware and software maintenance service associated with each system to be delivered to LANL and SNL (NM). LLNS intends to issue New Mexico nontaxable transaction certificates in connection with the resulting subcontract.

Items acquired under this Subcontract and for delivery to LLNL are for resale to the U.S. Government and are exempt from CA 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.

**FACILITY VISITS BY TRI-LAB PERSONNEL**

Tri-Lab personnel involved in the evaluation and selection process may visit one or more Offeror facilities prior to award, as deemed necessary by the Tri-Labs. Facility visits will allow Tri-Lab personnel to assess an Offeror’s manufacturing and testing capabilities. The LLNS Contract Analysts or designee will schedule and attend facility visits, if any.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals are due on the day / time identified in the in the RFP SUMMARY table above.

*Kansas City Supply Chain Management Center (SCMC) Portal*

LLNS is utilizing a proposal submittal technology run by the SCMC. After receipt of Offeror’ notice (see Offeror Notice section above), LLNS will initiate a process for that Offeror to receive related email notification(s) from SCMC. Detailed instructions on the access and use of the SCMC portal are provided in the Sealed Bid Instructions attachment document included as part of this RFP.

*Submission to LLNS Contract Analysts*

The Tri-labs do not want to receive hardcopy proposals. Therefore, Offerors are not required to submit hardcopy proposals. Facsimile proposals are not acceptable.

**Offerors should NOT plan to submit their proposal(s) via email. Firewall and other cybersecurity measures at LLNL may interfere with proposal submission via email.**

**Offerors should submit one complete copy of their proposals on compact disk (CD-ROM).**

Offeror may deliver its proposal on CD-ROM to the following address.

|  |
| --- |
| Address for Commercial Courier *(Not For Hand Delivery)* |
| Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory |
| Attention:Sherill Kazadzis |
| Mail Code L-555 |
| RFP B640169 |
| 7000 East Avenue |
| Livermore, CA 94550 |

Offeror may hand carry and deliver its proposal on CD-ROM to the LLNS Contract Analyst, who will be available between 1:00-2:00 PM on 08-25-20, to receive proposals at the Discovery Center at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The Discovery Center is designated as Building 651 and is located on the east side of the LLNL. No special access credentials are required for admission to the Discovery Center.

As an alternative to CD-ROM delivery, Offeror may establish a secure means such as Microsoft dropbox, Google drive, or other mechanism that enables Offeror to give the LLNS Contract Analysts a secure link / password, and allows the LLNS Contract Analysts to download offeror’s complete proposal. If offeror prefers this proposal delivery method, offeror will notify the LLNS Contract Analysts of the secure link / password at least three days prior to the proposal due date / time.

**MILESTONE PAYMENTS**

Offerors may propose milestone payments; however, such proposed 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., receipt of purchased materials, measurable performance).
* Where multiple milestone payments are associated with an end deliverable system, the last milestone payment for that system must be 15% or more of the total system price.

**SEALED BID INSTRUCTIONS**

Due to technical and pricing complexities inherent in this RFP, LLNS acknowledges: (i) Offerors are not required to submit price and other proposal information to the SCMC portal; and (ii) Section 4.0 ‘Concluding Steps and Reminders’ of the Sealed Bid Instructions attachment does not apply to this RFP.

ATTACHMENTS

The following attachments are part of this RFP.

* Attachment 1: Sample Subcontract
* Attachment 2: Draft Statement of Work
* Attachment 3: Proposal Evaluation and Proposal Preparation Instructions
* Attachment 4: Offeror Price Schedule
* Attachment 5: Offeror Price Adjustment Position
* Attachment 6: Offeror Blackhole Maintenance Price Increase Table
* Attachment 7: Offeror Labor Rate Schedule
* Attachment 8: Offeror Terms & Conditions Position
* Attachment 9: Offeror Future Component Projection
* Attachment 10: Offeror Example Machine Configuration Checklist
* Attachment 11: EEO Pre-Award Compliance Certification Form
* Attachment 12: General Provisions
* Attachment 13: Access to LLNL Computer Resources
* Attachment 14: Security and Site Access Provisions
* Attachment 15: Injury and Illness Reporting Provisions
* Attachment 16: SNL Specific Safety Clause
* Attachment 17: LANL Exhibit F – ES&H Requirements
* Attachment 18: LANL Exhibit G – Physical Security Requirements
* Attachment 19: LANL Exhibit H – Quality Assurance Requirements On-Site
* Attachment 20: Representations & Certifications Form
* Attachment 21: Offeror Benchmark Tests Document
* Attachment 22: Sealed Bid Instructions

(END OF RFP INFORMATION & PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS)