

**Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**

*Supply Chain Management Department*

09 January 2020

Attention: Potential CTS-2 Offerors

# Subject: Request for Information (RFI) No. LLNL-HPC-01 Commodity Technology System-2 (CTS-2) Acquisition

Attachment: (1) Draft CTS-2 Statement of Work (SOW) dated 12-08-19

Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (hereinafter called “LLNS”) hereby releases the CTS-2 RFI pertaining to a potential future Request for Proposal (RFP) for the CTS-2 acquisition. The CTS2 RFI consists of this letter and its Attachment (1).

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 potential future award resulting from any potential future CTS-2 RFP will be a subcontract under the Prime Contract.

Potential CTS-2 Offerors are: (i) directed to review / consider CTS-2 RFI Details and Other Information / Declarations below; and (ii) requested to submit CTS-2 RFI responses not later than 0331-20.

Sincerely,

Sherill Kazadzis

LLNS Contract Analyst

# CTS-2 RFI DETAILS AND OTHER INFORMATION / DECLARATIONS

## CTS-2 RFI Purpose

The purpose of this CTS-2 RFI is to: (i) provide Potential CTS-2 Offerors with a preliminary snapshot of anticipated CTS-2 technical requirements, which are identified in Attachment (1); and (ii) enable LLNS to review and consider CTS-2 RFI responses.

## Potential CTS-2 Offerors / RFI Respondents

Potential CTS-2 Offerors / RFI Respondents are: (i) high performance computing equipment (HPC) original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) who may decide to submit a CTS-2 proposal as a prime

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contractor to LLNS; (ii) authorised resellers / distributors of OEM equipment who may decide to submit a CTS-2 proposal as a prime contractor to LLNS; and (iii) key component suppliers who may decide to team with / as a lower-tier subcontractor to an OEM or a reseller / distributor that decides to submit a CTS-2 proposal as a prime contractor to LLNS.

## CTS-2 RFI Submittal Information

CTS-2 RFI responses should be submitted via email: (i) to the primary LLNS Contract Analyst Sherill Kazadzis (kazadzis1@llnl.gov); (ii) to the LLNS Technical Representative Dr. Matt Leininger (leininger4@llnl.gov); and (iii) with copy to the secondary LLNS Contract Analyst Gary Ward (ward31@llnl.gov).

## CTS-2 RFI Responses

CTS-2 RFI responses may include any information, comments, or questions RFI Responsdents / Potential CTS-2 Offerors wish to communicate to LLNS.

At a minimum, CTS-2 RFI responses should identify name and contact information for at least three industry or academic customers that the RFI Responsdent / Potential CTS-2 Offeror has recently delivered meaningful and worthwhile HPC equipment (i.e., 1,000+ nodes per system) to, and recently provided corresponding hardware and software support service. The name and contact information should be for an individual(s) most familiar with the delivered HPC equipment from a user / system administrator perspective. LLNS may or may not contact those individuals about their respective experience with the delivered HPC equipment / service.

## Attachment (1) Draft CTS-2 Statement of Work (SOW) dated 12-08-19

LLNS uses one of two methods as a basis for award under competitive RFPs: (i) low price, technically acceptable; or (ii) best value source selection (BVSS), which allows LLNS to consider price and nonprice / performance evaluative factors during the source selection process.

Any potential future CTS-2 RFP will be BVSS, and will include a draft SOW that describes mandatory requirements, mandatory option requirements (if any), target requirements, and target option requirements. Please refer to Attachment (1) for definition of these terms. A BVSS RFP, coupled with a draft SOW such as Attachment (1), allows LLNS reasonable flexibility in describing its hardware / software / service requirements, and Potential CTS-2 Offerors to propose one or more unique and innovative solutions / architectures based on LLNS draft SOW and what Potential CTS-2 Offerors believe represent the best overall value in terms of price and non-price / performance factors.

After any potential future CTS-2 RFP is released, and after LLNS evaluates CTS-2 proposals and selects an offeror for negotiation, LLNS and the selected offeror will negotiate a final CTS-2 SOW based on the selected offeror’s proposal(s), the corresponding solutions / architectures of interest to LLNS, and any other elements of interest to LLNS. The final negotiated CTS-2 SOW between LLNS and the selected offeror will state / identify all requirements as traditional firm requirements (i.e. all requirements will be mandatory, there will be no target requirements).

LLNS often structures its CTS-type HPC subcontracts and SOWs to suit key Advanced Simulation and Computing (ASC) objectives such as: (i) acquire leading edge technology, which has either recently become generally available (GA) in the marketplace at the time of initial CTS-2 subcontract award or is pre-GA and scheduled to become GA in the marketplace within 6-9 months of initial CTS2 subcontract award; (ii) technology evolution infusion, which means LLNS seeks methods / approaches to infuse negotiated / established CTS-2 subcontract equipment configurations with new and emerging key component technologies (i.e. processors, high speed interconnect, etc) throughout the lifetime of the CTS-2 subcontract; and (iii) reasonable flexibility to choose (after initial subcontract award) between one or more pre-GA solutions / architetures based on a risk / tradeoff assessment and LLNS schedule requirements. For example, Attachment (1) includes Section 6.8.5 “CTS-2 SU Architecture Decision Point”, which is an approach that allows LLNS to evaluate multiple pre-GA / emerging key technologies / solutions / architectures during initial CTS-2 subcontract performance, and to later select one solution / architeture that best suits LLNS’ requirements.

Attachment (1) refers to a ‘subcontract’ or ‘CTS-2 subcontract’, which will be the formal written agreement: (i) entered into between LLNS and the offeror LLNS selects for negotiation and award; and (ii) that identifies price and technical / business terms and conditions. A draft subcontract has not be prepared at this time, and does not accompany this CTS-2 RFI.

## Other Information / Declarations

Attachement (1) may or may not be the draft SOW that accompanies any potential future CTS-2 RFP. LLNS may revise / update Attachment (1) prior to any potential future CTS-2 RFP release.

LLNS is not liable, and will not reimburse any individual or entity, for any expense incurred in responding to this CTS-2 RFI.

LLNS may or may not reply to one or more individuals or entities that submit CTS-2 RFI responses.

LLNS makes no promise or otherwise guarantees that any potential CTS-2 RFP will be issued in the future.

LLNS reserves its right to cancel this CTS-2 RFI at anytime, for any reason. In the event of cancellation, LLNS may or may not provide written or verbal notice of cancellation.

In the event that LLNS issues a potential future CTS-2 RFP, then this CTS-2 RFI expires on the date of said RFP is issued.

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