CERDEC Response to APBI Questions

1/8/13

General Contracting Questions

(Reference CERDEC Question #4) An ID/IQ question: WEBS supports NVESD; TAOSS supports S&TCD; TIES supports I2WD; will there be an ID/IQ for Command, Power & Integration Directorate (CP&I)? Yes, the CP&I Directorate had posted market research for their future ID/IQ effort titled: Mission Command – Research & Development, Administrative and Operations Support Services (MC-RDAOSS). The market research was posted on 27 November 2012. Responses were due on 11 December 2012.

(Reference CERDEC Question #6) With the recent & future CERDEC ID/IQ RFPs looking for leading and developing technologies from industry. This goal seems incompatible with the LPTA acquisition strategy. Is a "Best Value" acquisition strategy being considered to evaluate that technical reach? Both proposal evaluation strategies are used and absolutely considered in the formulation of proposal evaluation strategies. There are two strategies associated with proposal evaluation, Lowest Price, Technically Acceptable (LPTA) and Trade-Off. Each approach has merit regarding the types of services contracted by CERDEC and the determination of which approach is used is predicated on the requirement for that particular action. When the requirement is not complex and technical and performance risks are minimal, LPTA is a suitable acquisition approach when services, supply, or equipment requirements are well defined and there is little difference among competing products or services. The Trade-Off method is appropriate when it may be in the best interest of the Government to consider award to other than the lowest priced offeror or to other than the offeror given the highest ratings for technical, management, past performance, or other non-cost/price factors. Trade-Off proposal evaluation is generally used when the requirements for products or services are more complex and technical and performance risks are moderate to high.

(Reference CERDEC Question #9) Robert Zanzalari mentioned that the focus is on "Capability for delivery" versus "Product delivery". Could you explain what this means? An example would best clarify this question. Using fires as a capability, the development of a new munition with an increased lethality (e.g. greater warhead accuracy) could be the "product" to be delivered. However, in order for this munition to be used effectively, the munition would require in-flight targeting updates thus having a dependency on the network which may include receiving targeting information from other sensors and transmission of targeting information through the communications network. Under the concept of "Capability to be Delivered", the entire problem would be analyzed from a systems of systems engineering perspective and the resultant changes, updates, modification on the complementary pieces (other sensors, communications systems) to use this capability would be identified and developed at the same time as the munition. These complementary pieces may include materiel, or tactics, techniques, and procedure changes to effectively employ the new munition.

(Reference CERDEC Question #11) Who will take the lead for transitioning Cyber Technology – I2WD or S&TCD? Cyber efforts within CERDEC are split between the Intelligence and Information Warfare Directorate (I2WD) and the Space and Terrestrial Communications Directorate (S&TCD). The Information Warfare Directorate has mission responsibility for Cyber Operations (exploitation and attack) while the Space and Terrestrial Communications has mission responsibility for Cyber Protection. As the customers (PEOs and PMs and other government agencies) differ, both I2Wd and S&TCD have transition responsibilities.

(Reference CERDEC Question #13) Who do you see are the leaders outside the USA for FPA's? Who is the Technical Point of Contact at CERDEC for FPA needs? The majority of non-US uncooled infrared FPA competitors are France, Israel, Germany, and Japan while the majority of non-US cooled infrared FPA competitors are France, Israel, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate located at Ft. Belvoir is the CERDEC lead. Dr. Meimei Tidrow or Dr. Phil Perconti are the Technical POCs.

(Reference CERDEC Question #14) Can you expand on purpose of new BAAs vs ID/IQ contracts (TIES, TAOSS, RAMP)? Is this a bridging strategy? CERDEC utilizes a variety of contracting approaches to support its mission and customer programs. Generally, Broad Agency Announcements are utilized to conduct applied research and advanced development while the ID/IQ contracts are utilized to conduct some portions of advanced development, engineering services, and limited quantity system/capability procurement. Generally, most customer work CERDEC is asked to perform is contracted through the ID/IQ contracting vehicles. There is not a bridging strategy between BAAs and ID/IQs, rather based on the scope, complexity, and dollar amount of the effort a determination is made as to which contract vehicle is better suited to have the work performed under.

Technical Information Engineering Services (TIES)

(Reference CERDEC Question #1, 16, 17, & 19.a.) Will Feb 2013 Ties RFP be draft or final? Will the TIES RFP scheduled for Feb 20133 be a final or draft and if final, will there be a draft prior for industry to comment? When will the draft RFP be released? The RFP released in February will be the final RFP. A draft of the Procurement Statement of Work will be released prior to the final RFP.

(Reference CERDEC Questions # 7 & 18) What will be Small Business size limit for TIES? What is the small business acquisition strategy for TIES? The Small Business size will be governed by NACIS Code #541712. There will be a Partial Set Aside for Small Business.

(Reference CERDEC Question #19 b-f) Regarding TIES:

b. As part of the draft, will the government please consider releasing the labor categories? Releasing labor categories with the RFP will allow industry more time to streamline pricing and offer greater value to the government. Labor categories are currently planned to be released with the final RFP.

c. How many sample task orders will be released with the final RFP? Five (5) Sample Tasks will be released with the Final RFP. Four (4) Unclassified Sample Tasks and one (1) Classified (SECRET) Sample Task

d. Will the government please consider having another industry and site visit? Based on the current acquisition schedule and to meet award date there is not sufficient schedule left to support another industry day and site visit.

e-f. How many unrestricted awards will be made? How many restricted awards will be made? It is anticipated there will be a minimum of four (4) contract awards in the restricted suite of contracts for Small Business and an anticipated minimum of six (6) contract awards in the unrestricted suite of contracts. The SSA reserves the right to award more or less than the anticipated contracts based upon the proposal review process.

Technical, Administrative, and Operations Support Services (TAOSS)

(Reference CERDEC Question # 5) TAOSS Opportunity – How many awards are there for Large? Small? Will it be a "Best Value" or a technically acceptable on cost? At a minimum there will be 3 restricted and 3 unrestricted awardees. The base contract will be based on a trade-off proposal evaluation. Subsequent Task Orders may be LPTA or Trade-off based on the complexity and risk associated with a particular effort.

(Reference CERDEC Question # 8) What will the RFP response time be for TAOSS given that it will be over the holidays? 30 days? 45 days? The RFP response time has been set at 45 days.

(Reference CERDEC Question #10) Can you describe the 5 sample tasks on TAOSS? Detail regarding the sample tasks will not be provided. For planning purposes, industry should be prepared to address a variety of the different mission requirements S&TCD has as an organization.

(Reference CERDEC Question #12) For TAOSS, how many sample tasks do you expect? If more than 3, do you believe it would be a challenge for small businesses to respond? Five (5) Sample Tasks will be required to be addressed in the offeror's proposal. RFP response time is set at 45 days providing industry (large and small) ample time to respond.

(Reference CERDEC Question #15) TAOSS: If you've waited this long to release TAOSS and it's already 5 Dec – Why wouldn't you wait to release the RFP until after the holidays –a few more weeks? (Industry has families too). The anticipated release date for TAOSS is now 16 January 2013. Please continue to monitor FedBizOps and Army Single Face to Industry for updates.

Broad Agency Announcements

(Reference CERDEC Question #2) Who is the Technical Point of Contact for the power and energy BAA? There were two Power and Energy BAAs discussed: Solicitation #W15P7T-09-R-S301 and Solicitation #: W15P7T-11-R-A609. Each BAA has multiple topics associated with them. For each Statement of Work or Topic Area the Technical Point of Contact is listed.

(Reference CERDEC Question #3) Will CERDEC BAA's issued in Jan 2013 take into account ASA/ALT's shift to focus on longer time frames? Generally, CERDEC focuses its research and development efforts in the near (1-4 year) and the mid (4-7 year) timeframe. These time frames vary by technology area and are driven by capability needs defined by the acquisition community (PEOs/PMs), the warfighter gaps defined by the Training and Doctrine Command, and operational needs defined by the Combative Commands. The Army Research Laboratory focuses on 10 years +. A disruptive technology can materialize at any time. In order to be flexible in science and technology a portion of CERDEC's mission funding is available each year to take advantage of unforeseen technology advancement. The BAAs are generally written to allow for technology in various states of technical maturity to be investigated.