

Solicitation W56HZV-13-R-0103
NIE 14.1 Vehicle Tactical Routers/Field Service Representatives
Round 2 - Question and Answer Summary

QUESTION:	GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE:
<p>27 The listed requirements for documentation at the proposal stage do not appear to allow for the submission of solutions that are in prototype or proof-of-concept stage. Will the Government consider proposals that do not include all of the Technical Volume documentation listed as "required" in Section L (and identified in Table 4.1) if a proposed solution is identified as a design prototype, or in development?</p>	<p><i>The Army is seeking a sufficiently mature router solution. Attention is drawn to Sections L.5.1 and L.5.2 of the RFP for our technical documentation requirements. Failure to submit required documentation may lead to rejection of the proposal, per Section M.2 of the RFP.</i></p>
<p>28 Is there latitude to show a mil-grade router that is a prototype unit?</p>	<p><i>The Army's RFP is seeking mature production or production ready products that have met all the core requirements of the specification. Manufacturing readiness falls under NIE planning documentation under Section L.5.2 of the RFP.</i></p>
<p>29 Does this router need to be opened and repaired by field service personnel, at the component level, in 15 minutes as stated in Exhibit A Item 3.15.2.1 or will swap out be sufficient to satisfy this requirement?</p>	<p><i>Refer to the maintenance concept in the specification in Exhibit A at 3.15.2.2; the vehicle tactical router is to be repaired by replacement, so swap-out is expected.</i></p>
<p>30 Quantify "Special Tools" in Exhibit A Item 3.15.2.2.</p>	<p><i>Special tools would be those not contained in the tool set for essential maintenance functions at field/sustainment units on combat vehicle fire control computer systems and on related equipment (Electronic System Maintenance Tool Kit (ESMTK)).</i></p>
<p>31 Exhibit A - Is an offeror excused from each of the following certifications if this is a prototype unit designed to be compliant to: 3.12.2, 3.14.1.1, 3.14.1.2, 3.14.2.1, 3.14.3.1, 3.14.3.2, 3.14.4.1, 3.14.5.1, 3.14.6.1, 3.14.6.2, 3.14.6.3, 3.14.7.1, 3.14.7.2, 3.14.7.3, 3.14.7.4, 3.14.7.5, 3.14.9.1, 3.14.9.2, 3.14.10.1, 3.14.11.1, 3.15.1.1, 3.16.2.2, 3.16.3.2, 3.16.4.2, 3.17.2, 3.17.3, 3.17.4, 3.17.8?</p>	<p><i>No relief is granted from the core requirements. Acknowledgement of compliance and evidence of compliance to 100% of the core capabilities is necessary. For systems that have not received formal certification, test reports or similar data is required to authenticate claims.</i></p>
<p>32 Exhibit A Item 3.2.4 only refers to wireless controllers and/or access points and not routers, why was this included in a router request?</p>	<p><i>Item 3.2.4 is a core requirement for the VTR. The Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP), is an authentication framework which supports multiple authentication methods. EAP typically runs directly over data link layers such as Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) or IEEE 802, without requiring IP. EAP provides its own support for duplicate elimination and retransmission, but is reliant on lower layer ordering guarantees.</i></p>

<p>33 Exhibit A Item 3.2.5 only refers to WAP authentication traffic and not a specific router functional protocol, why is it requested in this router solicitation?</p>	<p><i>Item 3.2.5 specifically refers to EAPoL. Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP) over LAN (EAPoL) is a network port authentication protocol used in IEEE 802.1X (Port Based Network Access Control) developed to give a generic network sign-on to access network resources. EAPoL, similar to EAP, is a simple encapsulation that can run over any LAN. The same three main components are defined in EAP and EAPoL to accomplish the authentication conversation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Supplicant (Port Authentication Entity (PAE) seeking access to network resources)</i> <i>2. Authenticator (PAE that controls network access)</i> <i>3. Authentication Server (a RADIUS/AAA server)</i> <p><i>This requirement supports the possibility of RADIUS.</i></p>
<p>34 The Government requested port mirroring for the router LAN ports, but this capability will typically be on the switch it plugs into, is this really necessary?</p>	<p><i>Exhibit A Item 3.4 1 Port Mirroring: The Tactical Router will support port mirroring.</i></p> <p><i>This requirement is on the switchable ports (3.1.3) contained within the Tactical Router. The term "Tactical Router" refers to the entire routing platform that will include a switchable module.</i></p> <p><i>Exhibit A Item 3.1.3 Switched Ports: The Tactical Router shall have a minimum of two (2) Ethernet Switched ports, at data rates of 10/100 Base-T [IEEE 802.3-1998] per port.</i></p>
<p>35 Section H.3 states that concurrent with the offer in response to this solicitation, the offeror shall submit a subcontracting plan required by FAR 52.219-9, entitled SMALL BUSINESS DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN. Section L.1, Proposal Format and Quantity Instructions, does not address what volume the plan is to be submitted under or as a separate volume. How is the plan to be submitted?</p>	<p><i>In accordance with Section H.3.1, the subcontracting plan shall be submitted separately to the buyer's email address on the face page of the solicitation concurrent with the offer in response to this solicitation via ASFI.</i></p>
<p>36 Clause 52.204-4016(e) – Note to Offerors states: Your attention is called to the solicitation date and time as stated on the cover page of this solicitation, local time for the Army Contracting Command – Warren (DTA), Michigan. SF 33 – Block 9 does not specify the hour (local time) for receipt. What is the local time?</p>	<p><i>The proposal receipt date is 04 Feb 2013 and must be received no later than 4:30 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST) as clarified by Amendment 0002 and in accordance with FAR 15.208(a).</i></p>

<p>37 As the email bandwidth is only 10MB or smaller, would the Government consider using AMRDEC Safe Access File Exchange (SAFE) system to allow the Contractor to load larger files?</p>	<p><i>In accordance with Section L.2.2, an offer is not considered received until the final submission via the Army Single Face to Industry (ASFI) Bid Response System (BRS) and the time stamped bid summary is generated; therefore, submission via the AMRDEC SAFE system will not be accepted. Section L.2.3 states that given the volume of data and information to be submitted by offerors in response to this solicitation, and the inherent limitations of email bandwidth, offerors may be required to submit proposals in multiple uploads. Up to five files can be uploaded at one time to ASFI with a combined size not exceeding 10MB. Offerors should break attachments into smaller files or use the upload utility multiple times if files exceed the 10MB size limit. Section L.2.4 goes further to state that offerors are requested to the maximum extent practical not to provide attachments from multiple volumes within messages; each message should include attachments from only one volume.</i></p>
<p>38 ASFI has been known to be down at times for extended periods of time. If ASFI is down for an extended period of time or fails during the submission process, what other method of transmission does the Government want the contractor to use?</p>	<p><i>Clause 52.204-4016 states you are required to submit your offer, bid, or quote electronically, via ASFI/BRS. Clause 52.204-4700 is to be used if the ASFI/BRS is unavailable.</i></p>
<p>39 Section C.4.7 - Integrated Logistics Support requires the contractor to provide a System Maintenance and Support Concept, COTS Technical Manual and New Equipment Training if the Government exercises its options for such services. However, Attachment 0011 – Items and Services Pricing does not contain a line item price for each item. Where should the contractor state the costs for subject items?</p>	<p><i>Section C.4.7 of the solicitation is associated with deliverable data items. Attachment 0011, CLIN 0009 indicates Data in accordance with the DD Form 1423 is Not Separately-Priced (NSP).</i></p> <p><i>If there are no post-NIE production router deliverables, then delivery of this production-related logistics data would be pointless. Thus, the costs attributable to this data (if not elsewhere covered) shall be included in the first quantity lot (1-100) under CLIN 0005 of Attachment 0011.</i></p>
<p>40 In subject solicitation, the Government did not address if existing military routers could be modified with upgraded router kits. Can a contractor propose modification kits for routers that exist in the military for Item 0002 (Additional Tactical Routers for NIE 14.1 – FFP) & Item 0005 (Tactical Router – FFP)?</p>	<p><i>The Army is seeking an integrated solution, hence the specification requirements including size, weight and power would apply to both the existing router and upgrade kit, should the kit include physical upgrades. In addition the environmental requirements would also apply to any new configuration. The Army is not opposed to an upgraded router solution, PROVIDED that its pricing basis is consistent with the RFP. In other words, you may propose upgrading an existing military router, which means that you must include the price of BOTH the basic router being upgraded, plus the cost of the upgrade(s). An offeror is not allowed to simply propose the cost of the upgrade alone and must include the material cost of its baseline router as well.</i></p>