

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

QUESTION:	GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE:
<p>1 The DD-254 indicates that this project has a Security Level Classification of Secret. Since our facility does not have a security clearance of this level, does this requirement preclude us from participating or supporting this project?</p>	<p><i>A Facility Clearance (FCL) is an administrative determination that a company is eligible for access to classified information or award of a classified contract. Contract award may be made prior to the issuance of an FCL. In those cases, the contractor will be processed for an FCL at the appropriate level and must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified information. However, the contractor will not be afforded access to classified information until the FCL has been granted. The FCL requirement for a prime contractor includes those instances in which all classified access will be limited to subcontractors. Contractors are eligible for custody (possession) of classified material if they have an FCL and storage capability approved by the Cognizant Security Agency (CSA).</i></p>
<p>2 Attachment 0001 (Capabilities Requirements Matrix) does not contain all of the listed core requirements from Exhibit A Table 3. Specifically from Exhibit A Items 3.14.10.1 HAEMP and 3.14.11.1 Near Strikes are not included in Attachment 0001. Which document takes precedence and are these two items required to be complete prior to submission?</p>	<p><i>The Capabilities Requirements Matrix (Attachment 0001) does not address all core requirements of the specification. The offeror is required to substantiate in its proposal only those requirements indicated in Attachment 0001. Notwithstanding this proposal provision, the router will be required to meet each of the core requirements in the specification.</i></p>
<p>3 Exhibit A Item 3.8.2.6 Hardware Version Number & 3.8.2.7 Software Version Number: The Tactical Router shall be capable of displaying the hardware/software Version number. Does this need to be a fixed LED type display or is having the ability to access the version information through the operating system adequate to meet this requirement? This requirement is also not listed on Attachment 1.</p>	<p><i>The specification assumes that information to be available through the console interface.</i></p>
<p>4 Exhibit A Item 3.7.1 Firewall: Are the requirements listed in this section referring to the firewall features contained in the IOS of the router or is there a separate hardware firewall requirement?</p>	<p><i>All requirements must be met by the router, regardless of the physical configuration. All size, weight, and power requirements must be met by the fully compliant router, including the firewall requirements.</i></p>
<p>5 Exhibit A Item 3.11.2 calls for a minimum throughput of 500k packets per second. That speed equates to a much faster speed than is required in section 3.11.1 (2MB per sec). Please clarify as to which speed is required.</p>	<p><i>The offeror's attention is directed to the columns to the right of Paragraphs 3.11.1 and 3.11.2. Paragraph 3.11.1 is titled "Minimum Throughput Required" and is indicated as a core requirement. Paragraph 3.11.2 is titled "Minimum Throughput" and is indicated as a growth capability.</i></p>

<p>6 Exhibit A Item 3.7.5.2 AES File System: “The Tactical Router shall provide a public key enabled 128-bit AES encrypted file-system for the operating system and router configurations.” Does the encrypted file system need to reside on the router itself, or is an external/separate device desired? Do both the IOS and configuration files need to be encrypted when not in operation? What is the preferred method for entering the encryption key to decrypt the files?</p>	<p><i>The encrypted file system for OS and configuration must be within the router, and the system must be encrypted at rest. The Army utilizes a number of tactical key loaders (TKL) that support legacy and modern key fill interfaces and protocols.</i></p>
<p>7 Is there a suspense date for submitting questions regarding the VTR RFP? Also, are you planning to post any updates or results of existing Q&As?</p>	<p><i>The suspense for question submission is 3:00PM ET on 30 Jan 2013. This will allow the Government time to provide meaningful responses prior to solicitation close. Questions from all offeror’s and the Government’s response will be posted on the ACC-Warren Procurement Network (ProcNet) web page at the following link: http://contracting.tacom.army.mil/research/nie/nie.htm. It is the responsibility of the offeror to check this website for any changes, updates, and amendments to the solicitation.</i></p>
<p>8 Section A references the ORCA electronic database. It is our understanding that the ORCA system has been suspended and the function itself is being addressed within the newly established System for Award Management (SAM) website. Will the Government accept SAM Representations and Certifications in lieu of ORCA?</p>	<p><i>System for Award Management (SAM) is an acceptable Federal Government owned web site and is an acceptable representative of CCR, ORCA and EPLS.</i></p>
<p>9 If, at the time of final submission, the ASFI/BRS system is functioning please confirm Clause 52.204-4016 takes precedence over clause 52.204-4700. Specifically please confirm that an electronic upload through the ASFI/BRS system, if available, is preferred over a CD-ROM submission as requested in paragraph 2 of the Requirement for Electronic Submissions document detailed in clause 52.204-4700. In addition, please confirm there is no requirement to upload the submission via the ProcNet server as well.</p>	<p><i>Clause 52.204-4016 takes precedence. You are required to submit your offer, bid, or quote electronically, via ASFI/BRS. Clause 52.204-4700 is only to be used if the ASFI/BRS is unavailable. There is no requirement to upload proposal submissions via the ACC-WRN ProcNet in addition to ASFI/BRS.</i></p>

<p>10 It appears that all CLINS/Lines on this effort are FFP lines, therefore please clarify the applicability of Clause 252.232-7007 as it would seem only appropriate for a cost reimbursable CLIN.</p>	<p><i>The clause was included in error and will be deleted. However, the payment schedule in paragraph (j) of the clause is applicable to the first delivery order; the substance of that payment schedule information has been moved to Section B and is based on meeting the scheduled events during performance of NIE.</i></p>
<p>11 Please confirm that the Period of Performance for both the Golden Vehicle Phase and the Fleet Build phase are the same (1 Jul 2013 through 23 August 2013). Based on previous NIE's, the Golden Vehicle phase would need to be completed prior to the start of the Fleet Build phase.</p>	<p><i>The periods of performance under the FSR-Golden Vehicle and FSR-Fleet Build tasks, under Section F.3, have been revised/aligned in Amendment 0001.</i></p>
<p>12 LBRR integration states that "the contractor <u>shall assist</u> the Government in the physical installation of their equipment." Please confirm if contractor is responsible to provide and/or fabricate special mounting hardware needed to integrate equipment onto any given vehicle platform.</p>	<p><i>Yes, the contractor is responsible for fabricating and providing any special mounting hardware for the VTR.</i></p>
<p>13 Please clarify if "on-site at FBTX/WSMR, to provide coverage 24/7" requires physical on site support or if during non-regular duty day hours, "24/7 support" allows for those FSR's supporting regular duty day hours, to be on-call with immediate response to support location.</p>	<p><i>Under paragraphs C.3.8 (COMMEX and FIELDEX) and C.3.9 (Pilot and NIE), coverage 24/7 means seven days a week. The minimum daily expectation is coverage 0700 -- 2200, physically available on-site and ready for work. On-call support with immediate response is acceptable during the off-hours only (the nearest hotels are hours from the field site). C.3.8 and C.3.9 text has been clarified in Amendment 0001.</i></p>
<p>14 Does the device need to be a single hardware router or could it be a single embedded/integrated software defined computing device?</p>	<p><i>The Government is seeking a single physical device with the capabilities indicated in the specification.</i></p>
<p>15 In Paragraphs 3.7.7.1-3, for the growth requirement, are both of the stated AAA solutions (RADIUS & DIAMETER) required or would RADIUS suffice? Also, would TACACS+ be an acceptable alternative AAA solution?</p>	<p><i>3.7.7.1 calls out a specific approach compatible with other elements in the architecture. 3.7.7.2 and 3.7.7.3 are redundant requirements and have been removed in Amendment 0001.</i></p>
<p>16 In Paragraph 3.7.1.12 is the need for 5000 concurrent connections for forwarding or for actual traffic analysis / DPI (Deep packet inspection)?</p>	<p><i>The value has been changed to 100 concurrent sessions of traffic analysis in Amendment 0001 based on the proposed position of the router in the architecture.</i></p>

<p>17 Are the terms “Core” and “Growth” synonymous with “Threshold” and “Objective” respectively? For example: In paragraph 3.13.1.2, capabilities are significantly increased under the “Growth” column of the requirements matrix yet the Maximum volume of the solution is significantly reduced along with weight in 3.13.1.3. Then if the terms “Objective” and “Threshold” are interpreted accurately, is it proper to assume that each requirement is individually considered and not ALL required for “Growth”?</p>	<p><i>Core and Growth are synonymous with Threshold and Objective, respectively. All Core capabilities must be met, and any Growth capability will be considered individually, post-award, as an augmentation of the overall router capability.</i></p>
<p>18 New Equipment Training (NET) – It is understood that the contractor is responsible for providing training on the VTR. What other equipment will the VTR be used with? Is the contractor responsible for providing training on that equipment also? If so, how in depth (at the individual equipment level, system level or both)?</p>	<p><i>The contractor is required to provide New Equipment Training on only the VTR.</i></p>
<p>19 Maintenance training is called out. There is no maintenance on the VTR. What is the customer’s expected level of maintenance/repair?</p>	<p><i>The specification requires repair by replacement of the router. Maintenance tasks will be limited to normal operational checks and removal and replacement of the router.</i></p>
<p>20 The first sentence calls out “soldier target audience”. What is the number of students in the soldier target audience? What is the technical skill level of the soldier target audience that will receive NET with a duration of 40 hours or less?</p>	<p><i>There will be no more than two trainees for each tactical router. The Soldier Target Audience will be required to place the unit in operation. All maintenance, configuration and diagnostic functions will be performed by the FSR during the NIE.</i></p>
<p>21 We believe the following requirements restrict the Govt. to a limited number of potential solutions and dramatically increase the cost of otherwise compliant solutions. Accordingly, will the Government consider removing these requirements or moving them from “Core” to “Growth”?</p> <p>a. 3.2.5 EAPOL: The Tactical Router shall support the EAP over LAN (EAPOL) IEEE STD 802.1x protocol.</p> <p>b. 3.4.1 Port Mirroring: The Tactical Router will support port mirroring</p> <p>c. 3.7.2 Intrusion Detection (Request all of 3.7.2 be removed or made a Growth requirement)</p> <p>d. 3.7.5 Sanitization (Request all of 3.7.5 be removed or made a Growth requirement)</p>	<p><i>See answers 21a through 21e below</i></p> <p><i>The Government agrees. This capability has been moved from Core to Growth in Amendment 0001.</i></p> <p><i>This capability represents an important diagnostic capability and will remain a Core requirement.</i></p> <p><i>These capabilities represent an important essential feature of the vehicle tactical router and will remain as they are in the specification.</i></p> <p><i>The Government agrees. This capability has been moved from Core to Growth in Amendment 0001.</i></p>

<p>e. 3.7.6.7 Digitally Signed Data Format: The Tactical Router digitally signed data shall comply with the format specified for PKI-based signatures in IETF RFC-2315, (Public Key Cryptography Standard (PKCS) #7, Cryptographic Message Syntax, Version 1.5, March 1998).</p>	<p><i>The Government agrees. This capability has been moved from Core to Growth in Amendment 0001.</i></p>
<p>22 Reference 3.4.13: Does the phrase 'multicast packet replications' refer to the replication that takes place at the branches of a distribution tree in a routed multicast network when subscribers reside along separate branches?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>23 Reference 3.7.2.10 a. What is the definition of 'full analysis'? b. Is the data rate 10MBytes/sec or 10Mbits/sec?</p>	<p><i>Full analysis means to conduct capabilities 3.7.2.1, 3.7.2.2, 3.7.2.3, 3.7.2.15, 3.7.2.16, 3.7.2.21 and 3.7.2.23.</i></p> <p><i>The data rate was erroneously designated as Bytes and should be bits. This was corrected in Amendment 0001.</i></p>
<p>24 Reference 3.11.2: Does the 64-byte value indicate the size of the Ethernet Frame, IP Packet, or UDP/TCP payload?</p>	<p><i>64 bytes IP Packet</i></p>
<p>25 Will the Govt. conduct environmental testing with or without cables mated to the connectors?</p>	<p><i>When the Government conducts environmental tests they will be conducted consistent with the mode of operation of the device in the test. If the device is mounted in its installed configuration, operating or not, cables will be connected. If the devices is in its shipping configuration or storage configuration, cables will not be connected.</i></p>
<p>26 Attachment 0008 to the RFP, Commercial Warranty requires the Offerors to "Include terms for an extension of the warranty for a period of not less than two years." However, there is no apparent space allocated to price this effort. Where should we display this pricing?</p>	<p><i>Section L.5.2 indicates that a commercial warranty be submitted for the offeror to be considered responsive but will not be formally evaluated as a part of the pre-NIE Source Selection Process. There is no specific CLIN for this extended warranty, so any pricing submitted may be simple narrative text in response to Attachment 0008. Any extended warranty pricing data submitted is informational only and will not be considered for NIE initial award.</i></p>