

NOAALink Small Business Industry Day Submitted Questions

Theme	Question(s)	Answer(s)
NOAALink use of other contracting vehicles	Is the Agency favorable to employing the NITAAC CIO-SP3 Small Business GWAC vehicles in executing your procurement strategies?	Once NOAALink core contractors have been considered, NOAALink Contracting Officers may use any procurement vehicle available to them that is suitable for the particular requirement.
Requirements - Cloud	How will FedRAMP cloud services shape procurements?	FedRamp will give NOAA buyers an option to acquire Cloud services that have gone through a FISMA compliant assessment based on users requirements.
	How is the NOAA enterprise architecture being changed/impacted by FedRAMP?	The NOAA EA plays a supporting role in the process of choosing a Cloud Service.
	What is the impact to NOAA Data Centers regarding the recent federal government approval of Amazon Web services?	There is no impact; Amazon Web services are just another Cloud Service Provider to choose from.
Requirements - Cyber Security	What types of cyber security support (computer network defense, certification and accreditation, others?) are currently in the procurement cycle?	Information for FY 15 will be provided from each Line Office
	What are procurement strategies for future cyber security support?	We are in the early stages of determining whether to establish an enterprise-wide acquisition. However, until that time all procurements will be individual actions.
Requirements - Other	Will procurements include services to support Major Applications tracked on the Federal IT Dashboard (e.g., OMB Exhibit 53/300, milestone and earned value management)?	For more information about scope, refer to details in the solicitation.
Contract and task order allocations	Will a contractor be allowed to win both a small business and 8(a) contract?	Yes
	May a small business participate in more than one opportunity? E.g., may a small business prime a team in the Small Business Refresh, and participate as a subcontractor in either or both of the other two opportunities? Or vice versa? Are there any restrictions in that regard?	Yes
	Is there an allocation plan for what type of work will go to 8(a) contracts versus small business.	Although the full range of acquisition strategies represented in the Federal Acquisition Regulation are available for use to purchase services under the NOAALink program, first consideration must be given to the core contractors. The rules for determining the appropriate pool, as agreed to with the Small Business Administration, are as follows: 1. If the requirement is for repetitive or follow on work most recently performed by an 8(a) firm, then the requirement should be competed among the NOAALink 8(a) Core Contractors; 2. If the requirement is for repetitive or follow on work most recently performed by a small business, then the requirement should be competed among the NOAALink Small Business Core Contractors; and 3. Occasionally a requirement is competed in one pool with no awarded task order resulting from the competition. If this occurs, then consideration should be given to competing the requirement in the other pool before going outside the Core NOAALink Contractors.

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	Do you expect all current NOAA LINK work to stay on NOAA LINK and eventually be re-competed?	In general, the Periods of Performance (POPs) on NOAALink core contractor task orders are up to three years for T&M and up to five years for FFP. If the work needs to continue, it will be competed as a new task order under NOAALink according to the rules for determining the appropriate pool.
	Successful 8(a)'s, SDVOSB's and SB's grow out of the small business NAICS. Is NOAA requiring size recertification for SB, 8a, and SDVSOB companies that are currently participants in the program? Will companies that have outgrown the NAICS SB size standards be eligible to participate in the re-competed and refresh?	All current NOAALink Small Business vendors will remain a part of the small business vendor pool. However, all other vendor types will be required to recertify and re-compete to become a NOAALink vendor.
	Is NOAA allowing Joint Ventures to submit in response to each of these opportunities? If so, are there any restrictions on the sizes of the JV members? Or any other restrictions on JV's that vendors should know about?	Yes
Solicitation process and evaluation	Will you use sample tasks on the RFP	Yes, sample tasks will be used on the RFP. It will represent work that is either a subset of the scope of an existing task or work that can be awarded upon selection of/award to the new NOAALink vendors.
	How will pricing be evaluated for the selection	Program Approach, Sample Task Order Approach, and Past Performance combined are significantly more important than Price
	For evaluation criteria what will the relative weights be for -pricing versus technical and management capabilities	Program Approach is more important than Sample Task Order Approach Program Approach and Sample Task Order Approach are more important than Past Performance Program Approach, Sample Task Order Approach, and Past Performance combined are significantly more important than Price
	How will NOAA evaluate the past performance of a team submitting a proposal? Will NOAA consider only the prime's past performance, or will they also consider team member's past performance? If so, will team members past performance be given equal weight compared to the prime's past performance?	It is normal and customary that the three past performance references in NOAA solicitation shall be for contracts performed by the offeror as a prime
Subcontracting	Will the prime be expected to cover all the technical management requirements or can some of that be achieved through teammates?	In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clause 52.219-14 – Limitations on Subcontracting (Dec 1996), at least 50% of the cost of contract performance for personnel shall be expended for employees of the concern (NOAALink core contractor). This applies to the contract as a whole rather than individual task orders.
	Are there any subcontracting opportunities under the current NOAA Link contracts?	NOAALink encourages core contractors to develop teaming arrangements to augment their capabilities in support of NOAA's mission. Contact core contractors directly about subcontracting opportunities.
	Are the current primes allowed to pick additional subcontractors to perform under existing/new tasks?	Contact core contractors directly about subcontracting opportunities.

NOTE: There were additional questions asked during the event, many of the answers are addressed in the information above. All other answers can only be addressed when the solicitation(s) is released.