

DIL Draft RFP Questions and Answers

1. Q: Are these numbers reflective of the number of FTE per system required to support the level of effort on the contract? (Enclosure 6, DIL Supplemental Info.)

A: The numbers listed by each system in the Supplemental Information slides are reflective of the quantity of systems per type, not the number of FTE required.

2. Q: What is the Government trying to replicate (command structure or operational organization) in the lab environment with the numbers of each of these systems? (Enclosure 6, DIL Supplemental Info.)

A: The number of systems in the lab reflects the quantities needed to support 3 simultaneous AMCS Integration and Testing events and 3 AMCS baselines.

3. Q: Will the Government provide a set Level of Effort for vendors to staff to in support of this work or are vendors required to propose their own level of effort for staffing of the DIL? (Paragraph 1.4 Scope.)

A: No, staffing will be dependent upon the offeror's technical approach.

4. Q: Will the Government provide the standard under which this training and certification will be evaluated? (Paragraph 1.6.8 Qualifications.)

A: The evaluation criteria and PWS have been modified to state the minimum requirement is for 5 years of experience in each system. Certifications have been identified as "Objective" (PWS Paragraph 5.4.)

5. Q: When is this designation in writing to the contracting officer required? In the proposal or post-award on a date TBD? (Paragraph 1.6.11 Key Personnel states contractor must provide a Contract Manager. It also states, "The name of this person and an alternate who shall act for the Contractor when the [Contract] Manager is absent shall be designated in writing to the Contracting Officer.")

A: The designation referenced is so the Government understands who is authorized to obligate the contractor in the event of any contract modifications. This should be provided at the time of award.

6. Q: Are there any OCI issues or restrictions for vendors currently performing work on these Army Mission Command Systems on other contracts or performing work under the JLCCTC contract? (Paragraph 1.6.16 Organizational Conflicts of Interest.)

A: Para 1.6.16 OCI is a standard paragraph in all new service PBWS. There are no known restrictions for vendors currently working in the JDIF Lab, nor is it anticipated that there would be in the future. The paragraph states that offerors are required to call out to the Government, within their technical proposal, any potential OCI issues that they are aware of.

7. Q: Are these secondary places of performance only in a Temporary Duty (TDY) status or does the Government anticipate any personnel being permanently assigned at either of these locations? (Paragraph 3.1.1 Place of Performance lists Fort Hood and Aberdeen Proving Ground as secondary places of performance.)

A: Paragraph 5.1 of the PWS has been updated to clarify this requirement. The PWS is updated as follows:

5.1.1 DIL-Orlando, FL: The DIL is the primary place of performance for Operators, Maintainers, and System Administrators performing the tasks as outlined in this PWS.

5.1.2 TSIF-Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), MD: The support for the TSIF is needed once or twice a year normally utilizing the support staff from Orlando. No full time support is currently needed at the TSIF, however the Government anticipates some changes in the future. Any changes to the TSIF support will be negotiated and added to the contract after award. Travel and TDY for any supplemental support for the TSIF will be paid for on a separate Cost-no fee CLIN.

5.1.3 CTSF-Ft. Hood, TX: The CTSF requires "on site support" for a DIL/CTSF coordinator and a SIMCI architect. It is anticipated that 960 hours per year will be required for the CTSF coordinator and 960 hours per year will be required for the SIMCI architect. Additional support for the CTSF is needed once or twice a year, normally utilizing the existing support staff from Orlando. Any changes to future support will be negotiated and added to the contract after award. Travel and TDY for any supplemental support for the CTSF will be paid for on a separate Cost-no fee CLIN.

8. Q: Does the Government have and will they provide what the anticipated volume will be for this work? (Paragraph 4.4 Cost and Procurement Resource Support.)

A: Historically, material purchases have been a relatively minor task, amounting to 4-6 purchases of equipment per year. A Not-To-Exceed, Cost-no fee CLIN in the amount of \$50,000 has been included for each option year.

9. Q: Will the Government provide a summary of these events or a standard operating procedure for executing these events? (Paragraph 5.4 Operations, Maintenance and System Administration discusses having sufficient staff to support simultaneous integration events and software baseline events.)

A: The DIL provides AMCS operators and troubleshooters, as well as assistance in solving simulation-to-MC interoperability problems discovered during the events. That said, the DIL services are customer-driven; the number of systems and operators, along with the length of the events themselves are completely determined by the customer. More info on the standard operating procedures can be found in the DIL SOP 4.0 (RFP Enclosure 9).

10. Q: Will the Gov't provide the current number contract personnel and the corresponding labor categories? (Paragraph 5.4 Operations, Maintenance and System Administration,)

A: No, each Offeror will need to propose their own staffing solution in accordance with their technical proposal. Slide 3 of Enclosure 6 (Supplemental Information Slides) provides the available office space.

11. Q: Are these teams located at each duty location? Can the team located at the primary location also be the team that supports the three Software Baselines? (Paragraph 5.4 Operations, Maintenance and System Administration.)

A: The PWS has been revised, please see answer to Question 7 above.

12. Q: Will this be on an as needed or regular basis? Will the contractor SMEs provide formal classroom instruction or providing over the shoulder support? (Paragraph 5.8 discusses certification, demonstration and training in subject areas relevant to the AMCS domain.)

A: The DIL SMEs will not be required to train anyone; Para 5.8 is referring to the requirement that the SMEs themselves need to be trained.

13. Q: Are IA requirements for certifications based on DoD 8570.01-M in effect for this contract? (Paragraph 5.8.2 discusses Information Assurance Certification.)

A: Yes, IA requirements for this certification are based on 8570.01-M.

14. Q: Does this mean the Contractor will need simulation trained personnel in addition to those trained and certified in the AMCS systems? (Paragraph 5.9, Configure and Reconfigure states, "The Contractor shall document hardware and software modifications and developments to any simulation or AMCS related system under the Contractor's control.")

A: It is not anticipated that the contractor will need simulation trained personnel, except for the SIMCI Architect.

Section 5.8 of the PWS has been updated to state "At a minimum, the Contractor shall provide a SIMCI architect who has knowledge in simulation and stimulation interoperability with the AMCS's, and also an on-site certification support capability at the CTSF, Fort Hood, Texas, and/or the TSIF, APG, MD."

15. Q: Is there and will the Government provide to vendors a current version of the DIL Standard Operating Procedure? (Paragraph 6.0 Applicable Publications [Current Editions].)

A: DIL SOP 4.0 is the current version and is included as Enclosure 9 to the RFP.

16. Q: Will PEO STRI publish labor categories for this requirement?

A: No, PEO STRI will not publish labor categories for this requirement; these will be based upon the offeror's technical approach.

17. Q: Will the positions be SCA classified?

A: No, since specific technical experience is required, these positions are not subject to the Service Contract Act.

18. Q: OCI is mentioned in paragraph 1.6.16...please elaborate on potential OCI areas....what current and future contracts would be in conflict?

A: Para 1.6.16 OCI is a standard paragraph in all new service PWS's. There are no restrictions for vendors currently working in the JDIF lab, nor is it anticipated that there would be in the future. The paragraph states that offerors are required to call out to the Government, within their technical proposal, any potential OCI issues that they are aware of.

19. Q: What is the complete list of GFE/GFI that will be provided as part of this contract?

A: The GFE/GFP list has over 1000 items and will be provided with the final RFP.

20. Q: Section 1.6.7.1 says the Contractor shall be responsible for safeguarding all Government equipment, information, and property provided for contractor use. Will all physical storage devices, e.g. safes, drives, etc, be provided as GFE under the DIL contract?

A: Yes, all physical storage devices, e.g. safes, drives, etc, will be provided as GFE.

21. Q: Do contractor personnel have to be trained and certified on the proper operation, maintenance and administration of assigned current AMCS systems prior to award or can this be done after award and during the phase-in period?

A: Personnel performing as part of effort must be trained and experienced with the proper operation, maintenance, and administration of assigned AMCS systems by the start of performance (PWS Paragraph 5.4).

22. Q: Is it relevant to understand the process by which a CM update is pushed to the DIL? If so, can you please elaborate on how the DIL acquires a CM update?

A: Depending on the size of the updates, either Central Technical Support Facility (CTSF) Configuration Management (CM) sends DVDs with the updates to the DIL CM, or the DIL sends portable hard drives to be loaded by CTSF CM and returned.

We use the CTSF CM website as a reference only; we go directly to the CM director for our released software. Army Interoperability Certification (AIC) Criteria is set by the CIO/G-6 and C3T. It is important to note that the DIL does not support the AIC for the MC equipment themselves; that is done by the CTSF. We only support the AICs for the STRI simulations that are required to go thru AIC.

23. Q: Can you describe how the DIL would use the CTSF Configuration Management website to acquire or update to a new configuration?

A: The CTSF CM website is currently used as a reference for updates. The existing CM processes includes having the DIL on-site coordinator going directly to the CTSF Configuration Manager for the released software. "Beta" software is obtained directly from the cognizant Program Management Office for each AMCS.

24. Q: There appears to be some inconsistencies between the planned period of performance in the cover letter and the period of performance in the Enclosure 3, Section B and Pricing Workbook...

A: Inconsistencies in the dates will be corrected. The correct period of performance is a one-month phase-in, four one-year options, and one eleven-month option, for a total of five years. The anticipated period of performance is December 2014-November 2019.

25. Q: The draft solicitation defines the Technical Factor as individually More Important than the remaining factors of Quality Assurance Plan and Cost/Price. However, the draft solicitation has all 4 Subfactors within the Technical Factor as all of Equal Importance. This approach may not allow for significant differentiation of the offerors' Technical approach and solutions...Would the government please consider elevating Technical Subfactor 1.A, to the most important Technical Subfactor, and individually more important than all other Technical Subfactors...?

A: No, the Subfactors within the technical factor are of equal importance.

26. Q: The draft solicitation Encl. 2 Tab 2 identifies a 15 page limit for responding to Factor I (Technical). Given the scope, and magnitude of task requirements within the DIL PWS and the four (4) Technical Subfactors offerors are required to respond to within the draft solicitation, a 15 page limitation would be insufficient to thoroughly demonstrate a complete understanding, knowledge, approach, solutions and management for each of the four Technical Subfactors for a complete Volume I Technical response. Recommend the Government consider increasing the page limit for the Technical Factor to 20 pages...

A: The page limitation for Volume 1 - Technical is being raised to 20 pages.

27. Q: The draft solicitation Encl. 2 Tab 2 identifies a 5 page limit for responding to and developing the offerors DIL Quality Assurance Plan (QAP). Given the magnitude of the DIL PWS requirements and the multiple Evaluation Requirements and Metrics outlined within the Government's QASP, a 5 page limitation would be insufficient to adequately address, describe and demonstrate a thorough understanding an feasibility of the processes and procedures required for a QAP...recommend the Government consider increasing the page limitation for offeror's QAP to not exceed 10 pages.

A: The page limitation for Volume 2 - Quality Assurance Plan is being raised to 10 pages.

28. Q: Submission Requirements Instructions in Tab 1 states; "Each volume should be a separate electronic file, provided by CD/DVD per Tab 2. Tab 2 identifies instructions for Number of Copies as One (1) CD/DVD or email annotated with each Volume / Factor identified in Tab 2 under Technical, QAP and Cost/Price. Will the Government please clarify if submitting One (1) CD/DVD with separate files annotated for each Volume/Factor is acceptable or if the Requirement is to submit One (1) CD/DVD for each Volume/Factor is required for a total of up to 3 CD/DVDs for delivery and submission.

A: Offerors shall submit one (1) CD/DVD with Volume 1 and Volume 2 on it and (1) CD/DVD with Volume 3 on it; for a total of 2 CD/DVDs.

29. Q: The Government states within the Notes Section of Encl 2 Tab 1, Note 2: The Government intends to evaluate proposals and award a delivery order without "exchanges" other than "clarifications," as defined in FAR Subpart 15.306... While the Government reserves the right to request additional information after receipt of Offeror's response to the Solicitation...". However, the Government further states in Note 11: "The PCO will promptly notify Offerors of any decision to exclude them from the competitive range, whereupon they may request and receive a debriefing in accordance with FAR Subpart 15.505..." Will the Government please clarify their intent to award the DIL Task Order without discussions, and the Note 11 statement, referring to "the competitive range", which implies the establishment of a competitive range for this competition.

A: This is standard language. The Government intends to make award without discussions, therefore offerors are encouraged to provide their best value proposal for initial evaluation. Should the Government determine it's in the best interest to enter into discussions, it reserves the right to do so.

30. Q: The Government states within the Evaluation Criteria for Technical Subfactor 1.C: "The Government will evaluate specific demonstrated knowledge against the success criteria as it pertains to AIC for each AMCS, to include Operator level certification and Administrator certification. Will the Government please identify, define and provide offerors with the "success criteria" referenced in Technical Subfactor 1.C Evaluation Criteria, by which offerors will be evaluated on for this subfactor.

A: The references to AIC success criteria have been removed from Technical subfactor 1.C and the QASP.

31. Q: The Government describes within the PWS the "primary place of performance is the DIL located at Orlando, FL with Secondary places include CTSF, Fort Hood, TX and APG, MD". Additionally, Tab 2 (Proposal Matrix) 1.B Submission Instructions states; "Describe your plans for supporting the DIL program at multiple locations, including Orlando FL, Ft Hood TX, and Aberdeen MD. AMCS operators and administrators are only required at the Orlando location. " This language infers the place of performance for residing on-site contractor staff is at the DIL in Orlando, FL with travel to support the CTSF at FT Hood and at APG, MD. However, the Evaluation Criteria for 1.B (Key Personnel) states: "The Government will evaluate the Offeror's ability to recruit, hire, and retain key personnel situated in multiple locations, including Orlando FL, Ft Hood, TX and APG, MD." This language infers staff will be recruited and hired to perform and reside on site at FT Hood, TX and at APG, MD as well as Orlando, FL. Will the Government please clarify their requirement for residing site location for contractor performance is Orlando, FL with travel to support requirements at FT Hood, TX and APG, MD, or is the Government's requirement to have residing contractor support located at FT Hood, TX, APG, MD and Orlando, FL...

A: The PWS has been revised to clarify this requirement. Please see the answer to Question 7 above.

32. Q: PWS paragraph 5.8 states; "At a minimum, the Contractor shall support an on-site SIMCI architect along with simulation, stimulation, and certification support capability at the CTSF, Fort Hood, Texas and/or the TSIF, APG, MD. From the established on-site location(s), the Contractor shall support all DIL activities and provide SIMCI architect and project support as directed and otherwise required". Additionally, Technical Subfactor 1.D, Submission Instructions in Tab 2, Encl 2 references demonstrating technical knowledge, capability and experience with the COE Program, and CTSF at Ft Hood, TX, to function effectively as a SIMCI Architect. Will the Government please clarify if the SIMCI Architect requirement defined in Technical Sub-Factor 1.D is full time at the CTSF at Ft. Hood, TX or if the Government's requirement is for support on an as-needed basis from the JDIF in Orlando, FL? Also, will the Government clarify if the SIMCI Architect is a separate, unique position from the operators/maintainers/system administrators listed in paragraph 5.4 of the PWS?

A: Yes, the SIMCI Architect is a unique position from the operators/maintainers/system administrators listed in paragraph 5.4 of the PWS. The CTSF requires "on site support" for a SIMCI Architect, approximately 960 hours per year, including travel. SIMCI Architect travel includes 3 separate tasks and will be paid for on a separate Cost-no fee CLIN: 1) SIMCI architect travel for meetings; 2) both CONUS

and OCONUS travel for supporting test and training events; and 3) travel to Ft Leavenworth, KS to support Integration and Validation events.

33. Q: PWS paragraph 1.6.8 states; "As a team, Contractor personnel shall be trained and certified on the proper operation, maintenance and administration of current AMCS systems as assigned. Additionally, Technical Subfactor 1.B Key Personnel, Submission Instructions and Evaluation Criteria states: "Describe your methodology, by AMCS system, for providing...current technical training certifications", The Government will evaluate key personnel's ...education, experience, certifications for all positions supporting the DIL".. and "The Government will evaluate separate certifications in each AMCS." Will the Government please clarify and identify the specific certifications to be evaluated and required to be demonstrated by offerors for each AMCS identified in PWS 1.6.8 and the Table in PWS paragraph 5.4?

A: The evaluation criteria and PWS have been modified to state the minimum requirement is for 5 (five)+ years of experience in each system. Certifications have been identified as "Objective" (PWS Paragraph 5.4).

34. Q: The PWS and QASP state: "The Contractor shall have sufficient staff to support three (3) simultaneous Integration Events, with durations varying from one day to three weeks each." "The contractor shall have sufficient staff to support 3 simultaneous integration events and capable of supporting 3 software baselines of AMCS (Legacy, Current, Emerging)". Will the Government please clarify if the simultaneous Integration Events typically supported from the same site location from the DIL in Orlando, FL. Additionally, will the Government please provide an estimate of the total number of events per year anticipated for support?

A: Typically, there are 26-30 events per year. Enclosure 6 includes historical information.

35. Q: Will the Government please provide a definition of a "small", "medium" and "large" event?

A: A small event is comprised of less than three Army Mission Command Systems. A medium event can be comprised of three to seven Army Mission Command Systems. A large event can be comprised of eight to thirteen Army Mission Command Systems.

36. Q: Tab 1, Note Sections, Number 8 makes reference to Section M of the solicitation: "The Offerors are cautioned that each volume of the proposal is evaluated stand-alone against the criteria set forth in Section M." This appears to be an administrative error as no Section M is identified in this Task Order solicitation format.

A: The "Section M" statement is referencing the "Evaluation Criteria." This language will be updated.

37. Q: It is unclear of the Government's requirement stated in the Notes Section of Tab 2 within Encl 2, which states: "Insert the Proposal Paragraph Number and return this sheet with the proposal submission." Will the Government please clarify this statement and instructions for "inserting the proposal paragraph number and returning this sheet with the proposal submission".

A: Yes, the Instructions/Criteria worksheet should be saved and submitted to the Government with proposal references to assist with the evaluation.