



Antarctic Science and Engineering Support Contract

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Committee on Awards and Facilities

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Antarctic Science and Engineering Support Contract (ASESC)

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ASESC Overall Strategic Objectives

- A partner to enable a world class Antarctic science program, with seamless integration between operations and research support
- A contract that supports innovation that will keep USAP at the cutting edge of working in Antarctica
- A contractor that has world-class expertise in information technology, operations, and logistics to support the USAP's complex mission
- A contractor with a successful track-record of project delivery
- A contractor with a focus on safety, including sexual harassment and assault prevention programs
- The incorporation of diversity and inclusion at the forefront of NSF and USAP priorities



ASESC Pre-solicitation Activities to Date

Event	Date
Virtual Industry Day	February 18, 2021
Information Session: Non-Procurement Instruments	January 12, 2022
Request for Information (RFI): Non-Procurement Instruments	March 15, 2023
Special Notice: Instrument Type Determination	May 25, 2023
One-on-One Discussions with Interested Parties	November 6-13, 2023
RFI: Contract Type, Structure, Period of Performance, and Draft Statement of Work	November 30, 2023



ASESC Strategy

- NSF is in the process of completing acquisition planning and drafting the solicitation document
- NSF will operate under the authority of the FAR to conduct a competitive, FAR-based procurement.
- NSF is considering the following:
 - An advisory two-step process included in the solicitation,
 - A single award indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity (ID/IQ) contract
 - A cost reimbursable type contract with fee (e.g, award, incentive, fixed)
 - Task Orders for specific business lines or programs/projects within the contract scope
 - Contract duration equal to or longer than the current contract period of performance



ASESC Future Procurement Milestones

Event	Date
Draft RFP Released	Fiscal Year 2024, Quarter 2
Release of RFP	Fiscal Year 2024, Quarter 3
Limited Extent Site Visit	Fiscal Year 2025, Quarter 1



ASESC Contract Ceiling

- DACS and OPP are working to set the contract ceiling
- Considerations when establishing a contract ceiling
 - Independent Government Cost Estimate
 - Current and Historical Contract Costs
 - Market Research
 - Cost Drivers
 - Current and Future Needs
- The cumulative value of all task orders shall not exceed the established contract ceiling.



Contract Termination

- All FAR-based contracts include contract termination provisions
 - Termination for Cause
 - Termination for the Government's Convenience
- Termination is not an unfettered right of the Government
- The specific clauses are determined by the contract type



Period of Performance

- The period of performance will be equal to or longer than the current contract
- When establishing the period of performance (PoP), NSF considers:
 - The PoP of the current contract,
 - Reviews of contracts for similar services at other agencies,
 - Input from interested parties, and
 - In-house expertise
- A PoP for this acquisition will be included in the draft solicitation and interested parties will be invited to comment and review



Subcontracting

- A contract of this size and scope will include several subcontractors
- NSF does not have privity of contract with subcontractors and it is against contract law and the Government's policy to deal directly with subcontractors
- To hold prime contractors accountable for performance and to mitigate risks of Government responsibility for subcontractor performance problems, influence on subcontractor selection is restrained by the regulations
- NSF is considering the inclusion of a Subcontractor Management Plan as part of the solicitation and resulting award.



Balancing Infrastructure and Science

- Each season is planned with priorities in mind for science, sustainment, and improvements
- This upcoming season, NSF will work closely with stakeholders to ensure the appropriate resources are allocated for several upcoming AIR projects
- Stewardship is included in the Statement of Work for the new contract to emphasize the importance of balancing the program over the long-term



Risks and Mitigations

- Transition to the New Contract
 - A delay in the solicitation and/or award of the contract will negatively impact transition
 - Mitigation would be to extend the current contract
- Workforce
 - Attrition at the end of a contract can produce leadership gaps
 - Turnover before or at contract award can result in “brain drain”



Safety and Remote Locations

- Clearly defined requirements and standards
 - These will be included in the solicitation and resulting award
- Contractor oversight processes sufficient to identify issues and demonstrate corrective actions
 - Included in the Statement of Work
- Government oversight



Contractor Morale

- Club and Recreation Improvements
 - Equipment
 - Finishes and Furniture
 - Chalet Renovation
 - Additional Recreation Staff
- Work Center Improvements
 - Finishes and Furniture
- Food and Store Improvements
 - Equipment
 - Pricing
- Dorm Improvements
 - Bedding
 - Finishes and Furniture



