

Solicitation Number: N00014-12-R-0001
“Propulsion Thruster Reliability Improvement Project”

Based on information attained under the Office of Naval Research (ONR) RFI Announcement # 11-RFI-0006 titled “Propulsion Thruster Reliability Improvement Project,” ONR issues the following:

This is a combined synopsis/solicitation for commercial items prepared in accordance with FAR Subpart 12.6 Streamlined Procedures for Evaluation and Solicitation for Commercial Items, as supplemented with additional information included in this notice. This announcement constitutes the only solicitation; proposals are being requested and a written solicitation will not be issued. This solicitation, “Propulsion Thruster Reliability Improvement Project”, is issued as a Request for Proposals (RFP). The solicitation document and incorporated provisions and clauses are those in effect through Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-53. The associated North American Industry classification System (NAICS) code is 541712 and the small business size standard for number of employees is 500.

Background

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) owns six oceanographic research vessels, which are chartered to academic institutions for operation and maintenance to support ocean science research objectives. Five of the six ships are mono-hull with propulsion provided by azimuthing main propulsion thrusters known as Z-drives. Z-drives were selected for their excellent station keeping and maneuvering characteristics, which have been validated during at sea operations. Between 1993 and 2001, a problem with Z-drive lower unit gear set failures was identified and successfully resolved. Recently, a new problem with failure of shafts in the Z-drives has arisen. Of note, some of the research vessel Z-drives have operated for over 88,000 hours in the past 15 years, and can be expected to operate for as many as 25 more years.

Scope/Objective

ONR requires an effort to focus on identification of thruster components with highest potential for fatigue failure, determination of methods to identify impending failures and action to minimize the possibility of unexpected casualties through component replacements. Current inspection procedures and techniques should be reviewed, and emerging technology that has potential to improve inspections should be evaluated. Frequency of inspections and component replacements should be evaluated in view of the above failure analyses and a recommended plan developed.

Tasks/Requirements

Pricing

The Contractor shall provide pricing information in accordance with Attachment (1) Pricing Form for work to be performed in accordance with Attachment (2) Statement of Work (SOW).

Deliverables

The deliverables under this effort will include Monthly Progress Reports and a Final Report. Distribution, consignment and marking instructions for all reports and data shall be F.O.B. Destination in accordance with Enclosure Number (1) of Exhibit A. All reports shall be delivered to the following:

Office of Naval Research
875 North Randolph Street
Attn: Robert Schnoor, ONR Code 032CM
Arlington, VA 22203-1995

Instrument Type and Period of Performance

The Government intends to competitively award a Firm Fixed Price contract that represents the best value to the Government in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in this solicitation. The Government estimates a period of performance of 12 months with no options; however, an alternate period of performance may be proposed by the Offeror. If Offeror proposes option periods, the proposal shall include the number of options, price per option, and period of performance for each option, if applicable, as proposed by the offeror.

Payment: The Office of Naval Research anticipates using Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) to pay invoices in accordance with DFARs 252.232-7003. Payment and invoice instructions will be provided in the award.

Relevant Clauses

The clauses at FAR 52.212-1, Instructions to Offerors-Commercial Items, FAR 52.212-4 Contract Terms and Conditions—Commercial Items, and FAR 52.212-5 Contract Terms and Conditions Required To Implement Statutes or Executive Orders-Commercial Items, apply to this acquisition.

The additional clauses cited within this clause are applicable: 52.203-6, 52.20-13, 52.203-15, 52.209-6, 52.209-10, 52.219-14, 52.222-3, 52.222-19, 52.222-21, 52.222-26, 52.222-35, 52.222-36, 52.222-37, 52.222-40, 52.223-15, 52.223-18, 52.225-13, 52.232-33 and 52.247-64.

The DFARS clause at 252.212-7001, Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders Applicable to Defense Acquisitions of Commercial Items applies to this acquisition. The additional clauses cited within this clause and are applicable: 52.203-3, 52.203-7000, 52.225-7009, 52.225-7012, 52.225-7015, 52.225-7036, 52.227-7015, 52.227-7037, 52.232-7003, 52.243-7002, 52.247-7003, 52.247-7023, and 52.247-7024.

The following additional FAR and DFARS clauses apply:
52.204-7 Central Contractor Registration;
252.204-7004 Alternate A, Central Contractor Registration.

Quote/Proposal Requirements

ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST (OCI) NOTE: DUE TO OCI CONCERNS, ANY CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR (TO INCLUDE ALL CORPORATE DIVISIONS, SUBSIDIARIES, AND AFFILIATES) RECEIVING A CONTRACT AWARD UNDER THIS SOLICITATION MAY BE PRECLUDED FROM RECEIVING A SUBSEQUENT CONTRACT TO PERFORM THE THRUSTER REPAIR WORK.

Offerors should submit a proposal that includes the following sections: (1) Technical; (2) Price; (3) Completed Representations and Certification as in accordance with FAR 52.212-3 Offeror Representations and Certifications-Commercial Items and DFARS 252.212-7000 Offeror Representations and Certifications-Commercial Items (see Attachment 3); (4) An affirmation that it has an active registration on the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), which is at the website www.ccr.gov; (5) An Acknowledgement of Solicitation Amendments; and (6) A signed SF1449 (see Attachment 4) or a statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions included in this solicitation. Offers that fail to furnish required representations or information, or reject the terms and conditions of this solicitation may be excluded from consideration.

Information for the technical portion should be a separate and segregable document from the price section. No cost information should be included in the technical section. The length of the technical portion shall not exceed five (5) pages, exclusive of Resumes, Past Performance Information Form. The Representations and Certifications, CCR Affirmation, Acknowledgement of Amendments, and SF1449 (or alternate statement) are also excluded from the technical portion page count. The proposal should be written and organized to be compatible with the requirements of this solicitation. All proposals received must provide resumes which outline qualifications and relevant experience. Resumes for proposed personnel are required. Therefore, offerors are encouraged to submit numerous resumes for individuals that meet the personnel qualifications to show the depth of the offeror team in meeting the personnel

requirements. The resumes should be no more than two (2) pages each, and there is no page limitation for the cost portion of the proposal. There is no limit on the number of resumes an Offeror can provide. The proposal should be written and organized to be compatible with the requirements outlined in this solicitation, company's organization and accounting structure, and proposed cost. The technical portion of the proposal should include the following: (1) Offeror's understanding of and approach to the requirements and resumes of proposed personnel; (2) Explanation of how the quality and timeliness of work performance will be supervised and controlled; and (3) Information relative to previous efforts for the same or similar services provided in the past three (3) years. The Offeror should submit a cost portion of the proposal that identifies separately for each of the proposed potential years of performance, each labor category, associated hours, and the fully burdened rate (with profit) and resulting amount. The maximum proposed price for all work cannot exceed \$350,000.00.

Basis for Award/Evaluation Factors

A Contract will be awarded to the responsible offeror whose offer represents the best value to the Government.

In order to determine which offeror represents the best overall value, offers will be evaluated in accordance with the following evaluation criteria: (1) Technical Factors: Offeror's understanding of and approach to the requirements, Resumes of proposed personnel, and Past Performance; (2) Price Factor. The Technical and Price factors are of equal importance.

If contractor proposes Options, the Government will evaluate offers for award purposes by adding the total price for all options to the total price for the basic requirement. The Government may determine that an offer is unacceptable if the option prices are significantly unbalanced. Evaluation of options shall not obligate the Government to exercise the option(s).

An offeror's past performance information will be used to make a determination of whether the offeror has a satisfactory record of past performance. Offerors should, therefore, provide performance history and references to demonstrate satisfactory performance for up to three prior same and/or similar contracts performed within the past three (3) years.

Past Performance information should be provided on the form provided as Attachment (5) to this solicitation. Information utilized will be obtained from these references as well as any other sources that may have relevant information.

The Past Performance information will be rated as Neutral, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory--see definitions below. Any offeror's proposal which has been rated Neutral due to the lack of relevant past performance history may not represent the most advantageous proposal to the Government and thus may be an unsuccessful proposal when compared to the proposals of other offerors.

The Contracting Officer will evaluate an offeror's PAST PERFORMANCE as follows:

NEUTRAL: No relevant past performance available for evaluation. Offeror has asserted that it has no relevant directly related or similar past performance experience. Proposal receives no merit or demerit for this factor.

SATISFACTORY: Very little risk anticipated with delivery of quality product, on time, or of degradation of performance, or lack of customer satisfaction based upon the offeror's past performance.

UNSATISFACTORY: Significant potential risk anticipated with delivery of quality product, on time, and of degradation of performance based upon the offerors past performance.

Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals must be received no later than 14:00 p.m. Local Eastern Time on 16 January 2012. Any proposal that is received at the designated Government office after this exact time specified for receipt of proposals is "late" and will not be considered. All offerors will be notified via e-mail once the award process is completed. The Contract Specialist must receive any questions concerning the RFP no later than ten (10) business days after the release date of this solicitation, or the questions may not be answered. Questions shall be emailed to Contract Specialist Vanessa Seymour at Vanessa.seymour@navy.mil. If to be sent in by USPS or other commercial carrier, the proposal hard copy package should be marked with the solicitation number N00014-12-R-0001, the due date, and be addressed to THE OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH (ONR), 875 NORTH RANDOLPH STREET, ARLINGTON, VA 22203, Attention: Vanessa Seymour – Suite 1273. If to be sent in by email, the proposal should be sent to Vanessa.seymour@navy.mil. **Faxed proposals will not be accepted.** It is anticipated that award will be on or about 26 March 2012. As soon as the final evaluation process is completed, the Offeror will be notified via email of its selection or non-selection for an award.

The U.S. Postal Service continues to irradiate letters, flats, Express and Priority Mail with stamps for postage and other packages destined to government agencies. Due to potential delays in receiving mail, Offerors are encouraged to use alternatives to the U.S. mail, such as commercial delivery services, when submitting proposals. Offerors may also hand-deliver their proposal to the mailing address above, provided they pre-arrange a time and date prior to the closing of the solicitation with the Contract Specialist, Vanessa Seymour at 703-696-4591.

List of Exhibits/Attachments

1. Exhibit A – entitled "Contract Data Requirements List" DD Form 1423 – 1 page with Enclosure Number 1, entitled "Contract Data Requirements List-Instructions for Distribution"
2. Attachment Number 1 – entitled "Pricing Form" – 1 page.
3. Attachment Number 2 – entitled "Statement of Work" – 2 pages.

4. Attachment Number 3 – entitled “Section K – Representations, Certifications and Other Statements of Offerors” – 14 pages.
5. Attachment Number 4 – entitled “Solicitation/Contract/Order for Commercial Items” – 1 page.
6. Attachment Number 5 – entitled “Past Performance Information Form” – 4 pages.

Pricing Form

ITEM NO.	SUPPLIES / SERVICES	AMOUNT
0001	The Contractor shall furnish the necessary personnel and facilities to conduct the Research Vessel Thruster Reliability Study work described in the attached Statement of Work and provide reports and data in accordance with Exhibit A.	
0002	Deliverables – NOT SEPARATELY PRICED	NSP
TOTAL FIRM FIXED PRICE		