

Description: NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD A SOLE SOURCE

The Office of Naval Research, Arlington, VA intends to enter into a Purchase Order with Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia. The objective of this effort is to provide ONR with subject matter expert advice on the technical aspects of astrometry and star catalog production in support of the Joint Milli-Arcsecond Pathfinder Survey mission (JMAPS) program reviews. The advice will be combined with inputs from other sources to determine the health of the program and report to Navy leadership. The subject expert needs to have a PhD in either: Astronomy, Astrophysics, Astrometry, or equivalent background experience. Additionally the subject expert must have a least ten years experience with star catalogue generation and astronomical data reduction.

The value of the order is expected to be under \$25,000. A twelve (12) month performance period is anticipated. In accordance with FAR 13.106-1 (b) the contracting officer has determined that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available, based upon the need of a world class expert in Astrometry with knowledge and experience of working at the naval observatory.

This notice of intent is not a request for competitive proposals; however, all responsible sources may submit a quotation which, if received within ten calendar days of publication of this notice, shall be considered by ONR. A determination by the Government not to open the requirement to competition based upon the responses to this notice is solely within the discretion of the Government.

This purchase will be made using the Policies and Procedures of FAR Part 13 as authorized under FAR 13.106-1(b). The anticipated award date is October 16, 2009. Government Point of Contact is Eliza M. Menchaca: 703-696-0590; EMAIL: eliza.menchaca@navy.mil

Please see the below Statement of Work:

JMAPS Astrometric Advisor Support

Background:

The Office Naval Research is developing the space-based Joint Milli-Arcsecond Pathfinder Survey mission (JMAPS) mission to support current and future needs for high accuracy star positions. The primary objective of the JMAPS mission is to generate a star catalog that is 15 times more accurate and 100 times denser than existing bright star catalogs. JMAPS will not only provide required star positions needed by high-accuracy, space-based orientation/attitude users, but JMAPS will also path-find, mature, and risk-reduce technology for the next generation of high accuracy attitude determination systems. In addition, the JMAPS sensor, optimized to make very high precision measurements of star positions (astrometry), is ideally suited to improve position measurements of satellites and support formation flying applications.

Success of JMAPS is crucial for supporting DoD and National missions and the program has high visibility across the services. ONR has been charged as the Program Office for JMAPS and as such is responsible assessing the current program baseline, validating the cost and schedule estimates and verifying the appropriate level of technology maturity exist before program execution. To properly evaluate all aspects of the program, ONR requires the support of experts in spacecraft design and control, optical space instrument design, astrometry, and DoD acquisition procedures.

Objective:

The objective of this effort is to provide ONR with subject matter expert advice on the technical aspects of astrometry and star catalog production in support of the JMAPS program reviews. The advice will be combined with inputs from other sources to determine the health of the program and report to Navy leadership.

Requirements:

The subject matter expert must be a US citizen.

The subject matter expert reviewing the JMAPS program shall have a PhD in either Astronomy, Astrophysics, or Astrometry, or equivalent background experience. Additionally the subject matter expert shall have a least ten years experience with star catalogue generation and astronomical data reduction. The subject matter expert will attend the milestone presentations or have web access to review the document libraries online.

Work to be Performed:

The subject matter expert shall review the astrometric and technical aspects of JMAPS at major milestones and provide a written report on his/her opinion that the proposed design meets the program requirements. The major program milestones include Assessment, System Requirements Review, Preliminary Design Review, and Critical Design Review. The Program Office will provide estimated dates for these reviews at the start of the contract.

The subject matter expert shall review the documentation presented at each milestone and evaluate any portion related to astrometric data collection and processing. The subject matter expert shall provide a written report within 3 weeks after the milestone presentation. The report will include an evaluation of the completeness of the presented material, the degree to which the proposed plan will meet the observing requirements, the maturity of the algorithms and sound practices proposed for the ground data processing, the readiness of the staff and systems to support initial operations, technical and programmatic risk associated with the approach to the catalogue production and the overall ability of the JMAPS system to successfully meet the program requirements.

Deliverables:

Written reports, content describe above, provided electronically in MS Word or PDF to the ONR Program Manager no later than 3 weeks after each milestone report. A total of 4 reports are expected.

Period of Performance:

The work shall begin the date the notice to proceed is issued or the date the Purchase Order is awarded. Program milestone reviews are expected to be completed by 30 Sept 2010.

Location of work:

Work will occur in the location of choice by the subject matter experts provided that environment has access to email and the web.