Allegheny National Forest Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Treatment

12444726Q0032

Description

This is a combined synopsis/solicitation for commercial items prepared in accordance with the format in FAR Part 12. This announcement constitutes only solicitation. Offers are being requested and separate written solicitation will not be issued.

Solicitation number 12444726Q0032 is issued as a Request for Quotation (RFQ). The purpose of this solicitation is to obtain insecticide treatment services for hemlock trees threatened by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). Work will occur within developed recreation areas, administrative sites, and conservation areas across the Allegheny National Forest.

This acquisition is set-aside for small business concerns. The applicable North American Industry Classification Standard Code is **115310 Support Activities for Forestry** The small business size standard is **$11.5 Million** This acquisition is a Total Small Business Set-Aside. All responsible small business sources may submit a quotation which will be considered by the agency.

Statement of Requirement
The Contractor shall perform insecticide treatments on hemlock trees to protect them from infestation by the HWA within developed recreation sites, administrative areas, and conservation areas of the Allegheny National Forest, including locations in Elk, Forest, McKean, and Warren Counties, PA. Specific treatment locations, tree diameters, quantities, and application methods will be identified in each task order. Work may involve gentle to steep terrain and typical field hazards. The Contractor shall provide all labor, materials, equipment, insecticide, supervision, and transportation necessary to complete required treatments using approved application methods such as soil injection, soil drench, soil tablets, basal sprays, or stem injections.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. All quantities provided are estimated and will be used solely for evaluation purposes. These estimates do not guarantee actual requirements, nor do they indicate that conditions will remain stable. Estimates are based on historical data, projected needs, or other available information. Actual quantities will be specified on individual task orders and will depend on future needs and available funding at the time of need.
2. The pricing offered is considered contractually binding and will apply to all task orders issued under this contract.
3. A minimum of $2,500 is the only guaranteed amount for the entire IDIQ.
4. The maximum cumulative value for all ordering periods is $350,000
5. Task orders will be issued as Government needs arise. Each task order will specify the required quantities, tasks, performance period, and Notice to Proceed date if applicable. Performance periods will be determined based on individual task order requirements.
6. The Ordering Period pricing in effect at the start of a Task Order performance period shall remain applicable for the full duration of that Task Order.
7. All warranted USDA Forest Service Contracting Officers are authorized to place orders under this contract.

8. Payment will be made after inspection and acceptance by the COR and will be processed through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).
9. All invoices must be submitted through the Department of Treasury's Invoice Processing Platform (IPP). More information is available at https://www.ipp.gov and vendors must register at https://www.ipp.gov/vendors/enrollment to submit invoices for this project.

Bid Schedule See Attachment #1 – Bid Schedule

Technical Data

Technical data and supporting documentation associated with this solicitation are available through the following sources:

1. Solicitation Attachments
   The following documents are included as attachments to this solicitation and can be accessed via the "Attachments/Links" section of the posting

   - Attachment 1 – Bid Schedule (1pg.)
   - Attachment 2 – Statement of Work (10 pgs.)
   - Attachment 3 – Wage Determination (1981-0682 Rev77_May13 2026) PA
   - Attachment 4 - Hazardous Materials & Waste Management Plan (62 pgs.)
   - Attachment 5 - Experience Questionnaire (1pg)
   - Attachment 6 - HWA Maps

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and United States Department of Agriculture Acquisition Regulation (AGAR) Clauses and Provisions

The clauses and provisions contained herein are applicable to any order awarded as a result of this solicitation. The terms and conditions set forth herein supersede all other terms and conditions.

Acceptance of the order in accordance with (IAW) FAR 12.201-1(b)(2) constitutes acceptance of all terms and conditions contained herein.

As part of the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul (RFO), system updates may lag policy updates. The System for Award Management (SAM) may continue to require entities to complete representations based on provisions that are not included in this solicitation. Contracting officers will rely on representations from offers based on provisions in the solicitation. Entities are not required to, nor are they able to, update their entity registration to remove these representations in SAM.

52.252-2 Clauses Incorporated by Reference Feb 1998

This solicitation incorporates one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. Also the full text of the clause may be accessed electronically at Internet address https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-52

52.212-4 Terms and Conditions—Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) of 52.212-4

52.203-17 Contractor Employee Whistleblower Rights (Nov 2023)
52.203-19 Prohibition on Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements (Jan 2017)
52.222-50 Combating Trafficking in Persons (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) of 52.222-50
52.226-8 Encouraging Contractor Policies to Ban Text Messaging While Driving (May 2024)
52.232-39 Unenforceability of Unauthorized Obligations (Jun 2013)
52.232-40 Providing Accelerated Payments to Small Business Subcontractors (Mar 2023)
52.233-3 Protest After Award (Sep 2025)
52.233-4 Applicable Law for Breach of Contract Claim (Sep 2025)
52.240-91 Security Prohibitions and Exclusions (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) of 52.240-91
52.244-6 Subcontracts for Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)

<u>The following clauses are applicable if checked:</u>

☒ 52.203-6 Restrictions on Subcontractor Sales to the Government (Jun 2020) with Alternate I (Nov 2021) of 52.203-6
☐ 52.203-13 Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct (Nov 2021)
☐ 52.204-9 Personal Identity Verification of Contractor Personnel Jan 2011
☒ 52.204-13 System for Award Management—Maintenance (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.204-91 Contractor identification (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.209-6 Protecting the Government's Interest When Subcontracting with Contractors Debarred, Suspended, or Proposed for Debarment (Sep 2025)
☐ 52.209-9 Updates of Publicly Available Information Regarding Responsibility Matters (Sep 2025)
☒ 52.209-10 Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations (Sep 2025)
☐ 52.219-4 Notice of Price Evaluation Preference for HUBZone Small Business Concerns (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.219-6 Notice of Total Small Business Aside (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Mar 2020).
☒ 52.219-8 Utilization of Small Business Concerns (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.219-9 Small Business Subcontracting Plan (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate III (Nov 2025) of 52.219-9.
☐ Alternate IV (Nov 2025) of 52.219-9
☒ 52.219-14 Limitations on Subcontracting (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.219-16 Liquidated Damages—Subcontracting Plan (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.219-33 Nonmanufacturer Rule (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.222-3 Convict Labor (June 2003)
☒ 52.222-19 Child Labor—Cooperation with Authorities and Remedies (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.222-35 Equal Opportunity for Veterans (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Jul 2014) of 52.222-35

☒ 52.222-36 Equal Opportunity for Workers with Disabilities (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Jul 2014) of 52.222-36
☒ 52.222-37 Employment Reports on Veterans (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.222-40 Notification of Employee Rights Under the National Labor Relations Act (Dec 2010
☒ 52.222-41 Service Contract Labor Standards (Aug 2018)
☒ 52.222-42 Statement of Equivalent Rates for Federal Hires (May 2014)

This Statement is for Information Only:
It is not a Wage Determination

Employee Class	Monetary Wage -- Fringe Benefits
Forestry Technician WG-9	**$33.65 Base / $14.13 Fringe**

☒ 52.222-43 Fair Labor Standards Act and Service Contract Labor Standards -- Price Adjustment (Multiple Year and Option Contracts) (Aug 2018)
☐ 52.222-44 Fair Labor Standards Act and Service Contract Labor Standards -- Price Adjustment (May 2014)
☐ 52.222-51 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards to Contracts for Maintenance, Calibration, or Repair of Certain Equipment-Requirements (May 2014)
☐ 52.222-53 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards to Contracts for Certain Services-Requirements (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.222-54 Employment Eligibility Verification (Nov 2025)
☒ 52.222-62 Paid Sick Leave Under Executive Order 13706 (Jan 2022)
☒ 52.222-90 Addressing DEI Discrimination by Federal Contractors (Apr 2026)
☒ 52.223-2 Reporting of Biobased Products Under Service and Construction Contracts (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.223-9 Estimate of Percentage of Recovered Material Content for EPA-Designated Items (May 2008)
☐ Alternate I (May 2008) of 52.223-9
☐ 52.223-11 Ozone-Depleting Substances and High Global Warming Potential Hydrofluorocarbons (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.223-12 Maintenance, Service, Repair, or Disposal of Refrigeration Equipment and Air Conditioners (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.223-23 Sustainable Products and Services (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.224-3 Privacy Training (Jan 2017)
☐ Alternate I (Jan 2017) of 52.224-3
☐ 52.225-1 Buy American-Supplies (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Oct 2022) of 52.225-1
☐ 52.225-3 Buy American--Free Trade Agreements--Israeli Trade Act (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate II (Nov 2025) of 52.225-3.
☐ Alternate III (Nov 2025) of 52.225-3.
☐ Alternate IV (Oct 2022) of 52.225-3
☐ 52.225-5 Trade Agreements (Nov 2023)

☐ 52.225-19 Contractor Personnel in a Designated Operational Area or Supporting a Diplomatic or Consular Mission outside the United States (May 2020)
☐ 52.225-26 Contractors Performing Private Security Functions Outside the United States (Oct 2016)
☐ 52.226-4 Notice of Disaster or Emergency Area Set-Aside (Nov 2007)
☐ 52.226-5 Restrictions on Subcontracting Outside Disaster or Emergency Area (Aug 2025)
☐ 52.229-12 Tax on Certain Foreign Procurements
☐ 52.232-29 Terms for Financing of Purchases of Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2021)
☐ 52.232-30 Installment Payments for Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2021)
☒ 52.232-33 Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer— System for Award Management (Oct 2018)
☐ 52.232-34 Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer—Other Than System for Award Management (Jul 2013)
☐ 52.232-36 Payment by Third Party (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.237-2 Protection of Government Buildings, Equipment, and Vegetation (Apr 1984)
☐ 52.237-3 Continuity of Services (Jan 1991)
☐ 52.240-92 Security Requirements (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.240-93 Basic Safeguarding of Covered Contractor Information Systems (No 2025)
☐ 52.247-64 Preference for Privately Owned U.S.-Flag Commercial Vessels (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Apr 2023) of 52.247-64.
☐ Alternate II (Nov 2021) of 52.247-64

<u>Other Applicable Clauses</u>

52.216-18 Ordering (AUG 2020)
(a) Any supplies and services to be furnished under this contract shall be ordered by issuance of delivery orders or task orders by the individuals or activities designated in the Schedule. Such orders may be issued from date of award through August 31, 2032.

(b) All delivery orders or task orders are subject to the terms and conditions of this contract. In the event of conflict between a delivery order or task order and this contract, the contract shall control.

(c) A delivery order or task order is considered "issued" when

(1) If sent by mail (includes transmittal by U.S. mail or private delivery service), the Government deposits the order in the mail.

(2) If sent by fax, the Government transmits the order to the Contractor's fax number; or

(3) If sent electronically, the Government either—

(i) Posts a copy of the delivery order or task order to a Government document access system and the notice is sent to the contractor; or

(ii) Distributes the delivery order or task order via email to the Contractor's email address.

(d) Orders may be issued by methods other than those enumerated in this clause only if authorized in the contract.

52.216-19 Order Limitations (Oct 1995)

(a) *Minimum order*. When the Government requires supplies or services covered by this contract in an amount of less than **$2,500.00,** the Government is not obligated to purchase, nor is the Contractor obligated to furnish, those supplies or services under the contract.

(b) *Maximum order*. The Contractor is not obligated to honor—

(1) Any order for a single item in excess of **$100,000.00.**

(2) Any order for a combination of items in excess of **$350,000.00** or

(3) A series of orders from the same ordering office within 30 days that together call for quantities exceeding the limitation in paragraph (b)(1) or (2) of this section.

(c) If this is a requirements contract (*i.e.,* includes the Requirements clause at subsection 52.216-21 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)), the Government is not required to order a part of any one requirement from the Contractor if that requirement exceeds the maximum-order limitations in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, the Contractor shall honor any order exceeding the maximum order limitations in paragraph (b), unless that order (or orders) is returned to the ordering office within **10 days** after issuance, with written notice stating the Contractor's intent not to ship the item (or items) called for and the reasons. Upon receiving this notice, the Government may acquire the supplies or services from another source.

52.216-22 Indefinite Quantity (Oct 1995)

(a) This is an indefinite-quantity contract for the supplies or services specified, and effective for the period stated in the Schedule. The quantities of supplies and services specified in the Schedule are estimates only and are not purchased by this contract.

(b) Delivery or performance shall be made only as authorized by orders issued in accordance with the Ordering clause. The Contractor shall furnish to the Government, when and if ordered, the supplies or services specified in the Schedule up to and including the quantity designated in the Schedule as the "maximum." The Government shall order at least the quantity of supplies or services designated in the Schedule as the "minimum."

(c) Except for any limitations on quantities in the Order Limitations clause or in the Schedule, there is no limit on the number of orders that may be issued. The Government may issue orders requiring delivery to multiple destinations or performance at multiple locations.

(d) Any order issued during the effective period of this contract and not completed within that period shall be completed by the Contractor within the time specified in the order. The contract

shall govern the Contractor's and Government's rights and obligations with respect to that order to the same extent as if the order were completed during the contract's effective period. *provided*, that the Contractor shall not be required to make any deliveries under this contract after August 30, 2032.

52.216-22 Indefinite Quantity – Alternate II (Nov 2025)

52.217-8 Option to Extend Services (Nov 1999)
The Government may require continued performance of any services within the limits and at the rates specified in the contract. These rates may be adjusted only as a result of revisions to prevailing labor rates provided by the Secretary of Labor. The option provision may be exercised more than once, but the total extension of performance hereunder shall not exceed ***6 months***. The Contracting Officer may exercise the option by written notice to the Contractor within ***15 calendar days of contract expiration.***

52.228-5 Insurance-Work on a Government Installation (Jan 1997)

Types and Amounts of Insurance Required

(a**) Insert the following language in solicitations and contracts which include the clause at FAR 52.228-5, Insurance - Work on a Government Installation.**

1. Workers' Compensation and Employer's Liability. The contractor must comply with applicable Federal and State workman's compensation and occupational disease statutes. If these diseases are not covered, they must be included under the employer's liability section of the policy, unless contract operations are commingled with the contractor's commercial operations. **Employer liability coverage of at least $100,000 is required**, except in States with exclusive or monopolistic funds that prohibit private carriers from providing workers' compensation.
2. General Liability. The contractor must have **bodily injury liability insurance coverage written on a comprehensive form of policy of at least $500,000 per occurrence**.
3. Property Liability: The contractor must have **property damage liability insurance in the amount of $500,000 per occurrence**.
4. Automobile Liability. The contractor must have comprehensive automobile liability insurance covering bodily injury and property damage for all vehicles used in the contract. For U.S. operations, the coverage must be at least **$200,000 per person, $500,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, and $20,000 per occurrence for property damage or loss.**
5. Aircraft Public and Passenger Liability. When using aircraft for the contract, the contractor must have aircraft public and passenger liability insurance. Coverage must be at least $200,000 per person, $500,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, excluding passengers. For passenger injury, coverage must be at least $200,000 multiplied by the number of seats or passengers, whichever is greater.

52.237-2 Protection of Government Buildings, Equipment, and Vegetation (Apr 1984)

AGAR Clauses

452.203-71 Anti-Discrimination and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Compliance (May 2026)

(a) By entering into this contract, the contractor certifies that:

(1) It is compliant with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws and the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution, and it will remain compliant for the duration of the contract.

(2) Neither it nor any subcontractor or teaming partner operates or funds any program, policy, or initiative that promotes DEI in a manner that violates any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, including but not limited to Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution, and the contractor and any subcontractor or teaming partner will not do so for the duration of the contract.

(b) If the contractor participates in, facilitates, or funds programs that implicate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, including but not limited to grants to or for schools, colleges, universities, 4-H programs, non-governmental organization (NGO) programs, sports programs, and education-related grants to prisons or other

detention facilities, the contractor certifies that it will remain compliant with those laws, including the requirements set forth in Executive Order 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, and Executive Order 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity.

(c) The contractor affirms that the above requirements are conditions of payment that go to the essence of the contract and are therefore material terms of the contract. Payments under the contract are predicated on compliance with the above requirements, and therefore the contractor is not eligible for funding under the contract or to retain any funding under the contract absent compliance with the above requirements.

(d) This certification reflects a change in the Government's position regarding the materiality of the foregoing requirements and therefore any prior payment of similar claims does not reflect the materiality of the foregoing requirements to this contract.

(e) Submission of a knowing false statement relating to contractor's compliance with the above requirements and/or eligibility for the contract may subject the contractor to liability under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, and/or criminal liability, including under 18 U.S.C. §§ 287 and 1001.

(f) The contractor must include the provisions of this clause in all subcontract solicitations.

(g) Failure on the part of the contractor or its subcontractors to comply with the terms of this clause may be grounds for the Contracting Officer to terminate this contract for default.

(End of Clause)

AGAR 452.203-72 Unenforceable Supplier Terms (MAY 2026)

(a) Definitions.

Supplier terms mean provisions customarily drafted by vendors of supplies or services and intended to create a binding legal obligation on the end user. The term applies:

1. Regardless of the format or style of the document. For example, supplier terms may appear in standard terms of sale or lease, Terms of Service (TOS), End User License Agreement (EULA), or another similar legal instrument or agreement, and may be presented as part of a proposal or quotation responding to a solicitation for a contract or order or otherwise become effective after the contract date.

2. Regardless of the media or delivery mechanism used. For example, supplier terms may be presented as one or more paper documents or may appear on a computer or other electronic device screen during a purchase, software installation, other product delivery, registration for a service, or another transaction.

(b) Applicability. When any supply or service acquired under this contract is subject to supplier terms, the supplier terms are deemed part of the contract only to the extent they are consistent with this clause. Supplier terms that conflict with any part of this clause, the contract, or Federal law are void and will not be considered incorporated into a contract, even if they are physically present in a contract documentation or systems. In the event of any inconsistency between supplier terms and this contract, this clause and the terms of the Government contract must govern and supersede any supplier terms in all cases.

(c) Authorization Required. Notwithstanding any other provision, no supplier terms must be binding on the Government unless the term is expressly authorized on the USDA Supplier Terms Authorization Form signed by the Contracting Officer, and the completed Authorization Form has been incorporated into the contract.

(d) Unenforceable Terms. Any supplier terms that impose obligations or restrictions inconsistent with applicable Federal law are unenforceable against the Government and deemed stricken from the agreement. This includes, but is not limited to, any clause that:

(1) Requires the Government to pay future fees, penalties, interest, legal costs, early-termination fees, cancellation fees, minimum purchase commitments, true-up payments, seat-count minimums, usage minimums, continued-use charges, or any other financial obligation not expressly authorized by the contract.

(2) Requires the Government to indemnify the contractor or any other entity.

(3) Restricts the Government's ability to obtain similar supplies or services from another source.

(4) Imposes any penalty, financial or otherwise, based on the Government's decision not to exercise an option.

(5) Subjects the United States Government to the laws of any U.S. state, territory, district, municipality, or foreign nation, except where Federal law expressly permits such application.

(6) Requires dispute resolution in a forum or venue other than one prescribed by applicable Federal law.

(7) Establishes a period of limitations for bringing an action that differs from that provided by applicable Federal law.

(8) Grants the contractor rights to use, mine, access, aggregate, analyze, or otherwise exploit Government data, usage data, or metadata.

(9) Deems the Government to have accepted initial or revised terms based on silence, continued performance, or failure to object.

(10) Grants the supplier the right to audit Government facilities, systems, records, or use of the product or service, except as expressly authorized by the contract and applicable Federal law.

(11) Requires the Government to accept supplier security requirements, network access requirements, monitoring, penetration testing, or other technical or security measures.

(12) Permits the supplier to suspend, degrade, or terminate access to products or services based on alleged non-payment, alleged breach, automated security triggers.

(13) Limits the Government's right to use, install, access, test, evaluate, or transfer the licensed product or service in any manner consistent with the contract and Federal law.

(14) Requires the Government to store, process, maintain, or transmit data in a particular geographic location, or permits the supplier to transfer Government data outside the United States, except as expressly authorized by applicable Federal law.

(15) Authorizes the supplier to use the Government's name, seal, trademark, logo, or any reference to the Government as an end user or customer for marketing, publicity, promotional activities, press releases, or similar purposes.

(16) Incorporates by reference, or requires the Government to accept, terms or conditions imposed by any third party, subcontractor, or upstream service provider, unless such terms are expressly incorporated into the contract by bilateral modification.

(17) Limits, conditions, or negates the contractor's performance obligations, service levels, or remedies through a supplier-provided service level agreement (SLA).

(18) Uses Government data, usage data, metadata, prompts, content, or interactions to train, fine-tune, improve, or derive any artificial intelligence, machine learning, or automated decision-making model.

(19) Subjects the Government to automated decision-making, automated risk scoring, automated content moderation, or any algorithmic process that may affect access, performance, or rights under the contract.

(20) Utilizes artificial intelligence or algorithmic tools that produce decisions, recommendations, or outputs affecting contract performance without providing transparency, explainability, auditability, and bias-mitigation consistent with applicable Federal law and policy.

(21) Profiles, tracks, or analyzes Government user behavior, preferences, communications, or interactions for personalization, marketing, or algorithmic optimization purposes.

(e) Non-binding Actions. Neither the Government nor any Government authorized end user is deemed to have consented to any term, condition, or clause by virtue of its inclusion in the supplier agreement or through the use of clickwrap, browse wrap, "I agree" mechanisms, or similar means. Execution of such mechanisms does not bind the Government or its authorized end users to any unenforceable terms.

(f) End user. The supplier agreement must bind the ordering activity as the end user to the extent it does not conflict with the terms of this clause, but it must not bind or impose personal liability on any Government employee or any person acting on behalf of the Government in their personal capacity.

(g) Law and disputes. The supplier agreement is governed by Federal law.

(h) Statutory exception. This clause does not apply to indemnification or any other payment by the Government that is expressly authorized by statute and specifically authorized under applicable agency regulations and procedures.

(i) Continued performance. The supplier or licensor must not unilaterally revoke, terminate, or suspend any rights granted to the Government except as allowed by the contract. If the supplier or licensor believes the ordering activity to be in breach of the supplier agreement, it must pursue its rights under the Contract Disputes Act or other applicable Federal statute while proceeding diligently with performance, pending final resolution of any dispute in accordance with the Disputes Clause at FAR 52.212-4(d) or FAR 52.233-1, as applicable.

(j) Arbitration. Binding arbitration must not be used unless specifically authorized by agency guidance.

(k) Equitable or injunctive relief. Equitable or injunctive relief, including the award of attorney fees, costs, or interest, may be awarded against the United States Government only when explicitly provided by statute (e.g., the Prompt Payment Act or the Equal Access to Justice Act).

(l) Revisions to supplier agreements. Any revisions to the supplier agreement must be incorporated into the contract using a bilateral modification. Unilateral revisions are not binding on the Government.

(m) No automatic renewals. If any license or service tied to periodic payment is provided under the supplier agreement (e.g., annual software maintenance or annual lease term), such license or service must not renew automatically upon expiration of its current term without prior express written consent from an authorized Government representative.

(n) Indemnification. Any clause of the supplier agreement requiring the supplier or licensor to defend or indemnify the end user is amended to provide that the U.S. Department of Justice has the sole right to represent the United States in any such action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 516.

(o) Taxes or surcharges. Any taxes or surcharges which the supplier or licensor seeks to pass along to the Government as end user will be governed by the terms of the associated Government contract or order and must be submitted to the Contracting Officer for a determination of applicability prior to invoicing unless specifically agreed otherwise.

(p) Non-assignment. The supplier agreement may not be assigned, nor may any rights or obligations thereunder be delegated, without the Government's prior approval, except as expressly permitted by FAR 52.212-4(b) or FAR 52.232-23, as applicable.

(q) Confidential information. If the supplier agreement includes a confidentiality clause, such clause is amended to state that neither the agreement nor the contract price list, as applicable, must be deemed "confidential information." Issues regarding release of "unit pricing" will be resolved consistent with the Freedom of Information Act. Notwithstanding anything in the supplier agreement to the contrary, the Government may retain any confidential information as required by law, regulation, or its internal document retention procedures for legal, regulatory, or compliance purposes; provided, however, that all such retained confidential information will continue to be subject to the confidentiality obligations of the supplier agreement.

(r) Conflict with Federal law. If any other language, provision, or clause of the supplier agreement conflicts or is inconsistent with Federal law or the terms and conditions of this contract, such language, provisions, or clauses will be considered null and void and will not be binding on the United States Government.

(End of Clause)

452.204–70 Modification for Contract Closeout (Apr 2026)

(a) If unliquidated funds in the amount of $1000 or less remain on the contract, the Contracting Officer (Contracting Officer) may issue unilateral modification for deobligation. The contractor will receive a copy of the modification but is not required to provide a signature. The Contracting Officer will immediately proceed with contract closeout upon completion of the period of performance, receipt and acceptance of supplies or services, and final payment.

(b) For commercial contracts not exceeding the simplified acquisition procedure threshold under FAR 12.001(c), if more than $1,000 in unliquidated funds remain at closeout, the Contracting Officer will issue a bilateral deobligation modification. Only the modification requires the contractor's signature, though a Release of Claims may be requested. If the required documents are not returned within 60 days, the Contracting Officer will issue unilateral modification and proceed with closeout once performance is complete, acceptance is confirmed, and final payment is made.

(c) For all other non-commercial or non–cost-reimbursement contracts, if more than $1,000 in unliquidated funds remain at closeout, the Contracting Officer will issue a bilateral deobligation modification and a Release of Claims, both requiring contractor signature. If these documents are

not returned within 120 days, the Contracting Officer will issue unilateral modification u and proceed with closeout upon completion of performance, acceptance, and final payment.
(End of Clause)

Solicitation Information

FAR 52.212-2 Evaluation - Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)

(a) Evaluation factors. The Government will award a contract resulting from this solicitation to the responsible Offeror whose offer conforming to the solicitation will be most advantageous to the Government, price and other factors considered. The following factors will be used to evaluate offers:

Technical Approach
Key Personnel
Past Performance
Price

Evaluation and Basis for Award
Award will be made to the offeror representing the best value to the Government.

The Government intends to evaluate proposals and make award without negotiations; however, clarifications may be necessary. Offerors should therefore submit their best pricing and technical terms in the initial proposal. The Government reserves the right to conduct negotiations if deemed in its best interest.

Award will be made for all five ordering periods.

Award Type
It is anticipated that a single-award, pre-priced Indefinite-Delivery/Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ) contract shall be awarded as a result of this synopsis/solicitation. Orders will be placed on a firm-fixed-price basis in accordance with the pre-priced schedule established at award. The total ordering period and maximum contract duration shall not exceed five (5) years.

The Government intends to make one award from this solicitation. Therefore, to be considered responsive, contractors must submit pricing for all items.

Technical Approach:
The Government will evaluate the Offeror's Technical Approach to ensure the proposed methods present a clear and effective plan for meeting all SOW requirements. Technical Approach shall demonstrate a solid understanding of approved HWA treatment methods supported by efficient planning and execution. The quotation shall clearly show the intent to utilize qualified personnel, applicators with certifications valid for Pennsylvania, and the appropriate equipment necessary to perform all required tasks, ensuring full capability to execute the work successfully.

Key Personnel:
Key personnel qualifications will be evaluated to determine which Offeror provides personnel with the experience, credentials, and capabilities most likely to ensure successful performance of all SOW requirements. At least one certified Pennsylvania pesticide applicator must be available on-site during all application activities, and personnel must demonstrate tree identification skills as well as experience in pesticide application and forest pest management. Résumés for each Key Personnel position must be included in the quotation and limited to two pages, containing only relevant information that clearly demonstrates required qualifications, certifications, licenses, and each individual's capability to perform the duties of the position.

Past Performance:

The Government will evaluate the offeror's past performance to assess the degree of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort. The evaluation will consider recency, relevancy, and quality of past performance.

To be considered **recent,** projects must have had performance occur within the past three years of the issue date for this solicitation.

Recency: Past performance information must be from efforts performed within the last three (3) years from the date of solicitation issuance. More recent performance may be given greater weight.

Relevancy: A project must involve HWA treatment methods in a forested setting to be considered relevant. The Government will assess how closely the offeror's past performance aligns with the scope, size, complexity, and type of work described in this solicitation. The Government will make an independent determination of relevancy of the data provided or obtained. More relevant performance may be given greater weight.

Quality of Performance: The Government will evaluate the quality of the offeror's performance on prior contracts.

Sources may include CPARS, past performance questionnaires, and other verifiable references. The Government reserves the right to limit or expand the number of references it decides to contact and to contact references other than those provided by the offeror.

Confidence Assessment: Based on the recency, relevancy, and quality of past performance, the Government will assign a confidence rating:

Note: Offerors without recent and relevant past performance will not be rated favorably or unfavorably but will receive a Neutral confidence rating.

Price:

The offeror's quotation will be evaluated in accordance with FAR 12.204, to determine if it is fair and reasonable.

For purposes of evaluation, the potential need to exercise the option under FAR 52.217-8 to extend a period of performance for a maximum period of six (6) months beyond any period of performance will be considered the same for all offerors. The Government will consider that if the extension of service clause (FAR 52.217-8) is exercised, it will be on the exact same rates and terms, other than length of performance, as the period of performance being extended. For purposes of evaluation only, the Government will use the rates specified in the last option period and add the cost of six months to the prices proposed for the base period and all option periods to determine total evaluated price of the contract. The Government will determine whether the price, including the option available under FAR 52.217-8, is fair and reasonable.

The Government reserves the right to conduct a price realism evaluation to assess an offeror's low fixed price. If conducted, a determination will be made whether the low price reflects a lack of understanding of the contract requirements. Vendors submitting unrealistically low pricing may be excluded from the competition.

Evaluation Method:

Award will be made to the responsible offeror whose quotation represents the best overall value to the Government, considering technical approach, key personnel qualifications, past performance, and price. Award will not necessarily be made to the lowest-priced offeror.

52.252-1 Solicitation Provisions Incorporated by Reference Feb 1998
This solicitation incorporates one or more solicitation provisions by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. The offeror is cautioned that the listed provisions may include blocks that must be completed by the offeror and submitted with its quotation or offer. In lieu of submitting the full text of those provisions, the offeror may identify the provision by paragraph identifier and provide the appropriate information with its quotation or offer. Also, the full text of a solicitation provision may be accessed electronically at this/these address(es): https://www.acquisition.gov/far-overhaul/far-part-deviation-guide/far-overhaul-part-52

52.212-1 Instructions to Offerors - Commercial Products and Commercial Services (Nov 2025)

Addenda to FAR 52.212-1 as follows:

Completed packages must be received by 11:59 p.m. EST on Monday, July 6, 2026, and must be submitted electronically to Laniece Nixon at laniece.nixon@usda.gov with a courtesy copy to Shannon Wrobel at shannon.wrobel@usda.gov. No hard copy or faxed proposals will be accepted and

All vendors must have an active System for Award Management (SAM) registration in order to submit a quote.

Technical Approach
The Offeror shall provide a narrative demonstrating their understanding of the SOW and their plan to execute all required work, including how tasks will be performed and schedule requirements met. The submission shall also include a completed Experience Questionnaire from relevant clients. The Technical Approach narrative, excluding PPQs, shall not exceed five (5) pages.

Qualifications of Key Personnel
The Offeror shall submit qualifications for all Key Personnel as part of the technical evaluation. The submission must identify the Project Supervisor, Commercial Pesticide Applicator, with a certification valid for Pennsylvania.

- Only include only relevant, concise information.
- Demonstrate all qualifications, certifications, licenses, and experience required by SOW.
- Clearly show the individual's capability to carry out the duties associated with the designated position.

Past Performance:
Complete Attachment #5 – Experience Questionnaire. list no more than three (3) ongoing or completed, recent, and most relevant projects. Projects must have had performance within the last three (3) years from the date of solicitation issuance.

For all submitted projects, the description of the project shall clearly describe the scope of work performed and the relevancy to the project requirements of this solicitation.

Pricing
Quoters shall submit a completed bid schedule identifying prices for all line items.

The Offeror agrees to hold the prices in its offer firm for 90 calendar days from the date specified for receipt of offers.

Questions
Questions shall be submitted via email to **Laniece Nixon by email at Laniece.nixon@usda.gov with a courtesy copy to Shannon Wrobel at shannon.wrobel@usda.gov no later than June 22, 2026**. This will ensure enough time to respond before the solicitation period ends. Please include the solicitation name and number as the subject line of the email.

52.203-18	Prohibition on Contracting with Entities that Require Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements or Statements-Representation (Jan 2017)
52.209-2	Prohibition on Contracting with Inverted Domestic Corporations - Representation (Sep 2025)
52.209-11	Representation by Corporations Regarding Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction under any Federal Law (Sep 2025)

52.240-90 Security Prohibitions and Exclusions Representations and Certifications (Nov 2025)

<u>The following provisions are applicable if checked:</u>

☒ 52.203-11 Certification and Disclosure Regarding Payments to Influence Certain Federal Transactions (Sep 2024)
☒ 52.204-7 System for Award Management—Registration (Nov 2025)
☐ Alternate I (Nov 2025) to 52.204-7
☐ 52.204-90 Offeror Identification (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.207-6 Solicitation of Offers from Small Business Concerns and Small Business Teaming Arrangements or Joint Ventures (Multiple-Award Contracts) (Aug 2024)
☐ 52.209-12 Certification Regarding Tax Matters (Oct 2025)
☐ 52.219-2 Equal Low Bids (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-18 Certification Regarding Knowledge of Child Labor for Listed End Products (Feb 2021)
☐ 52.222-48 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards for Maintenance, Calibration, or Repair of Certain Equipment–Certification (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-52 Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Labor Standards for Certain Services-Certification (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.222-56 Certification Regarding Trafficking in Persons Compliance Plan (Oct 2020)
☐ 52.223-4 Recovered Material Certification (May 2008)
☐ 52.225-2 Buy American Certificate (Oct 2022)
☐ 52.225-4 Buy American-Free Trade Agreements-Israeli Trade Act Certificate (Nov 2025)
☐ 52.225-6 Trade Agreements-Certificate (Feb 2021)
☐ 52.226-3 Disaster or Emergency Area Representation (Nov 2007)
☐ 52.229-11 Tax on Certain Foreign Procurements—Notice and Representation (Jul 2025)

<u>Other Applicable FAR Provisions</u>

52.217-5 Evaluation of Options (Nov 2025)
52.233-2 Service of Protest (Sep 2025)
52.237-1 Site Visits (Apr 1984)

<u>AGAR Provisions</u>

452.203-70 Anti-Discrimination and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Certification (Dec 2025)

(a) By submission of its offer, the offeror certifies that:

(1) It is compliant with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws and the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution.

(2) Neither it nor any proposed subcontractor or teaming partner operates or funds any program, policy, or initiative that promotes DEI in a manner that violates any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, including but not limited to Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or the Equal Protection principles of the U.S. Constitution.

(b) If the offeror participates in, facilitates, or funds programs that implicate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, including but not limited to grants to or for schools, colleges, universities, 4-H programs, non-governmental organization (NGO) programs, sports programs, and education-related grants to prisons or other detention facilities, by submission of its offer, the offeror certifies that it is compliant with those laws, including the requirements set forth in Executive Order 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government, and Executive Order 14173, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity.

(c) The offeror affirms that the above requirements are conditions of payment that go to the essence of the contract and are therefore material terms of the contract. Payments under the contract are predicated on compliance with the above requirements, and therefore the offeror will not be eligible for funding under the contract or to retain any funding under the contract absent compliance with the above requirements.

(d) This certification reflects a change in the Government's position regarding the materiality of the foregoing requirements and therefore any prior payment of similar claims does not reflect the materiality of the foregoing requirements to this contract.

(e) Submission of a knowing false statement relating to offeror's compliance with the above requirements and/or eligibility for the contract may subject the offeror to liability under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, and/or criminal liability, including under 18 U.S.C. §§ 287 and 1001.

(f) Failure on the part of the offeror or its subcontractors to comply with the terms of this clause may be grounds for the Contracting Officer to terminate the contract for default.
(End of Provision)

NOTICE FOR FILING AGENCY PROTESTS
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Protest Procedures

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to fair, transparent, and efficient acquisitions. Interested parties with concerns about this solicitation are encouraged to seek resolution through the following USDA procedures.

Tier 1: Contracting Officer Concern Resolution

Submission: Interested parties with concerns about either the solicitation or subsequent award should first submit their concern directly to the Contracting Officer, providing sufficient detail to allow the Contracting Officer to understand and assess the issue.

Process: The Contracting Officer will review the concern, seek clarification as needed, and engage with the interested party to attempt prompt resolution.

Review Timeline: The Contracting Officer will make every effort to provide a response or resolution within 10 business days of receiving the concern.

Effect on Award or Performance: Tier 1 engagement is not considered an official notification of filing an agency protest and does not pause solicitation deadlines, delay award decisions, or suspend contract performance.

Next Steps: If the matter cannot be resolved at Tier 1, the interested party may file a written agency protest under Tier 2.
USDA encourages all parties to seek resolution with the Contracting Officer before filing an agency protest.

Tier 2: Agency Protest
If concerns cannot be resolved at Tier 1, an interested party may file a written agency protest with either the Contracting Officer or the USDA Independent Review Authority. The decision by the USDA Independent Review Authority is an alternative to a decision by the Contracting Officer. The USDA Independent Review Authority will not consider an appeal of the Contracting Officer's decision on an agency protest.
The protest must state whether the protester elects review by the Contracting Officer, by the UDSA Independent Review Authority. If no election is stated, the Contracting Officer will decide the protest.

Required Information: Protests shall include the information set forth in FAR 33.104-4 (a)(3). Failure to submit the required information may result in a delay or dismissal of the protest.

Submission: Agency protests should be submitted electronically to SPE.inquiry@usda.gov and the Contracting Officer.

Timeliness: Protests must be filed within the timeframes specified in FAR 33.104.

Effect on Award or Performance: Contract awards or performance will be suspended during the protest period unless justified in writing for urgent and compelling reasons or determined to be in the best interest of the Government.

Review Timeline: USDA strives to resolve agency-level protests within 35 business days of receipt.

Election of Forum: By filing a protest with USDA, the protesters agree not to file a protest on the same matter with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) or any other external forum while

the agency protest is pending. If such a protest is filed externally, the USDA agency protest will be dismissed.

Questions: Questions regarding this notice or protest procedures should be directed to the Contracting Officer identified in this solicitation.