19AQMM26R0168 - Mission Support WMD Threat Reduction Consulting Services		
	Questions	**Responses**
1	Is there any incumbent/recompete or this is a brand-new project? If yes, could you please provide us with their award number or even if the customer bought similar services in the past.	This is a recompete and incumbent is Culmen International, LLC, 19AQMM21D0088
2	Will the Government provide a list of required or recommended labor categories, or should offerors propose their own labor category matrix?	The Government prefers and expects offerors to propose their own labor category matrix — providing no prescribed list of required categories. This preference reflects the mission's complexity, the diversity of required expertise, and the Government's desire for innovative, cost-effective workforce solutions. Offerors should propose a comprehensive, three-tier labor category matrix — organized across program management, WMD technical SMEs, intelligence/analytical, interagency, engineering, security/logistics, medical, training, and subcontractor domains — with transparent, market-based, fully-loaded rates for the base year and all four option years. A well-structured, mission-aligned labor category matrix directly demonstrates the technical understanding, cost efficiency, and workforce management capability
3	Section L.5.2 Volume II: Price Proposal (pg. 71) states "Labor Categories and Pricing shall depict the development of the labor rates proposed for the base and all option years. The Labor Categories and Pricing contains several columns of data that shall be completed by the Offeror in order to support the proposed labor rates." Would the Government please provide a price template?	No, the Government will accept and evaluate Offeror' format for the Price Volume.
4	Can the Government please confirm that the Sample Task Order, Volume II – Cost Proposal is to be submitted as part of the IDIQ Volume II: Price Proposal?	Yes. Confirmed.
5	Can the Government please confirm that Section A Solicitation/Contract Form is not required to be completed by Offerors, given that the quantities for labor and amounts for Travel, ODCs and DBA are currently unknown?	The Government confirms that offerors are NOT required to complete Section A (Solicitation/Contract Form) line items with specific quantities or dollar amounts at the IDIQ proposal stage.
6	Can the Government please confirm that for CLINs 005/105/205/305/405/505 (ODCs) and 006/106/206/306/406/506 (DBA), identified as "Type of Contract Pricing: Other," offerors may propose fee at the Task Order level, as appropriate based on the scope, complexity, and risk profile of the individual Task Order at the time of issuance?	No Fee/profit on Defense Base Act (DBA) insurance, regardless of whether it is placed on a Cost CLIN or evaluated within a pricing proposal. DBA is a non-risk, statutory pass-through requirement. The government reimburses the contractor dollar-for-dollar for the actual, allowable cost of the ODCs plus any applicable indirect burdens (like G&A or material handling overhead). However, the profit/fee percentage is explicitly set to 0% for this specific CLIN.
7	Section H-16, Key Personnel (pg. 15) states, "Program Manager and Deputy Project/Logistics Manager. PM certification or equivalent is required for the listed key personnel." Will the Government confirm that the PM certification or equivalent is only required for the Program Manager?	Yes, only the Program Manager must hold PM certification or equivalent; the Deputy Project/Logistics Manager has no such requirement
8	Subcontracting Plan content is governed by FAR 52.219-9 with substantial requirements. For example, the GSA model Subcontracting Plan responsive to the FAR requirement is 17 pages long. Could the Government therefore please confirm that the Subcontracting Plan may be submitted as an annex to the Proposal, and will be excluded from any page counts?	The Government confirms that subcontracting plans may be submitted as a separate annex to Volume I. This approach allows large businesses to submit fully compliant Subcontracting Plans without consuming the limited pages available for competitive technical content, while ensuring small businesses are not disadvantaged by not having to submit such plans.
9	The Subcontracting Plan is required to contain dollar value information. As such, can you please clarify if it should be submitted as an annex to Volume I: Technical Proposal or Volume II: Price Proposal?	Please submit as annex to Volume II: Price Proposal
10	Section B-008 - TRAVEL COSTS (Time-and-Materials/Labor-Hour), page 8 states: "Travel estimate template is found in Section J and will be used for all travel estimates and must be pre-approved before travel commences." Can the Government please provide the referenced travel estimate template?	Travel estimate template is deleted from the language, please use offeror own format/template.
11	Section L.5.1.2 Past Performance Information (pg. 70) states "The Offeror shall provide at least 3 Past Performance reference that are directly relevant to the required effort and are of similar size (dollar value), scope (substantially same services) and complexity (degree of difficulty). For the purposes of similar size, dollar value will be evaluated for recent (within the past 5 years) and relevant experience in worldwide." Given that this contract will be executed at the task order level and the average of the incumbent current task orders under IDIQ 19AQMM21D0088 is $10M, will the Government confirm that references of approximately $10M are considered similar in size?	Strickly advisory and related services, a $1M dollar value contract in size, scope, and complexity is adequately relevant for the determination of award.

12	Attachment A — Mission Support SOW, Page 1, Footnote 1: Definition of "Fentanyl" as WMD. The SOW footnote defines WMD to include fentanyl. Can the Government please clarify the expected scope of fentanyl-related advisory services, specifically, whether this encompasses supply chain interdiction advisory, forensic analysis support, detection methodology consulting, or all the above.	WMD's definition is considered any weapon that is designed or intended to cause death or serious bodily injury through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals, or their precursors. Because of fentanyl's extreme potency (where as little as 2 milligrams can be a lethal dose), federal defense and intelligence agencies (such as the FBI's WMD Directorate and the Department of Homeland Security) view it as a highly attractive agent for threat actors looking to launch a non-conventional chemical attack. Yes, all of the above.
13	Section L.5.1, Volume I: Technical Proposal, (pg. 69) allocates 20 pages for the Management Approach, Technical Approach, Sample Task order and Past Performance – each corresponding to a distinct Section M evaluation factor. This 20-page limit does not provide sufficient space for offerors to address all criteria in meaningful depth. Will the Government please consider increasing the Volume I page limit to 60 pages? If not, will the Government please allow the following elements to be excluded from the 20-page limit? 1) Sample Task Order proposal 2) Past Performance Information	60 pages limit is excessly long, offerors are now allowed a 30 pages limit. The Government has already established precedent for excluding certain content from the page limit, specifically Cover Page, Letter, Table of Contents, and Subcontracting Plan.
14	Attachment B Sample Task Order pg. 2 states: "This is a rapid assessment task order. The scope is intentionally streamlined to support urgent decision-making within a compressed timeframe." Can the Government please provide the period of performance for the sample task order?	The Sample Task Order is NOT a base-year-only or option-year task order - it is a hypothetical evaluation scenario that will never be performed. Offerors should propose a realistic period of performance (60-90 days recommended) that demonstrates their capability to execute similar rapid assessment task orders whenever they may be issued during the IDIQ life.
15	Attachment A – Mission Support SOW pg. 3 references that the Contractor shall "provide oversight and technical assistance in the logistical arrangement for procurement of packing materials and development of safe and secure methodologies and/or Concepts of Operations for the transporting of dangerous materials" and "prepare a cadre of capable experts who possess knowledge of international transport systems for physical removal of any WMD and conventional weapons from a host country." Can the Government clarify whether the Contractor is expected to directly execute physical transport and removal operations? Or is the requirement to provide subject matter experts who advise and oversee third-party entities performing those activities?"	Task Order Dependent: The Contractor's specific role in transport and removal operations shall be defined in individual Task Orders. Task Orders may require the Contractor to perform in an advisory/oversight capacity, a direct execution capacity, or a combination thereof, depending on the specific mission requirements and host country conditions.
16	Attachment B, para 6 has implied instructions that are different than those expressed in Section L .5.1.1, Factor 3 - can the USG review these requirements and update Section L accordingly?	Section L is revised as of Amendment 0001.
17	Please confirm if the key personnel resumes are excluded from page limits.	Confirmed
18	Please provide additional page count to complete the sample task; of 15 pages. (considering need for WBS, timelines, PP)	The 30-page limit will NOT be increased. However, offerors should note: Resumes (2 pages each) - NOT counted against 30-page limit; Organizational charts (up to 2) - NOT counted against 30-page limit; Detailed WBS chart (up to 2 pages) - NOT counted against 30-page limit; Detailed project schedule (up to 2 pages) - NOT counted against 30-page limit; Past performance reference forms - NOT counted against 30-page limit; Additional 2 pages for Assumptions and Exceptions. Recommended page allocation: Factor 3 (Sample Task Order): 10-12 pages narrative; Plus separate appendices for detailed WBS, schedule, and resumes (not counted); Total available for Sample Task Order: 10-12 pages + 6-10 pages appendices = 16-22 pages
19	Please confirm Offerors should provide UEI instead of DUNS in the cover letter.	Confirmed
20	The IDIQ SOW describes broad, worldwide WMD threat reduction operations including physical site surveys, destruction operations, PPE procurement, and perimeter security. The Sample Task Order is entirely desk-based remote work using open sources. Given the Sample Task Order carries heavy evaluation weight, can the Government confirm how representative this remote-work model is of task orders expected under the contract?	The Sample Task Order provided in Attachment B is a notional scenario developed solely for proposal evaluation purposes and is not intended to be representative of the full range of task orders anticipated under the IDIQ contract. The desk-based, remote-work methodology specified in the Sample Task Order was deliberately selected for the following reasons: 1.) Notional nature of the scenario, 2.) Source validation requirement - Because no actual work is being performed under the Sample Task Order, a remote, open-source research methodology was chosen as the evaluation vehicle. This approach allows offerors to demonstrate their analytical capabilities, technical understanding, and management approach without requiring access to classified information, physical sites, or sensitive materials that would be associated with actual task order performance.

21	All CLINs show $0.00 with no government estimates, reference labor categories, or example rates provided. For a labor-hour contract evaluated on price realism, offerors lack a basis for calibrating competitive rates. Will the Government provide a labor category matrix or any reference wage data to support price development?	The Government has intentionally structured this solicitation without pre-defined labor category matrices, reference wage data, or government estimates for the following reasons: 1.) The specific labor mix required to successfully perform any given task order will vary significantly based on the nature, complexity, urgency, and location of each individual requirement. Prescribing a fixed labor category matrix at the IDIQ level would artificially constrain offerors' ability to propose the most effective and efficient team composition for each unique task order scenario. 2.) Offeror Expertise as an Evaluation Discriminator: A central purpose of this evaluation is to assess each offeror's technical understanding of the requirement and their ability to independently identify and propose the appropriate labor mix necessary to meet the Government's WMD threat reduction mission.
22	Clause H-016 requires only a Program Manager and Deputy Project/Logistics Manager as key personnel, but the Sample Task Order and SOW imply specialized roles (radiological SMEs, OSINT analysts, satellite imagery analysts). The cost proposal requires a full labor category breakdown with no defined categories. What labor categories does the Government expect offerors to propose?	The Sample Task Order provided in Attachment B identifies staffing requirements that are specific to that notional scenario and should not be interpreted as defining the key personnel or labor category requirements for the IDIQ contract as a whole. These IDIQ-level key personnel designations are not intended to define, limit, or prescribe the full range of specialized expertise that may be required at the task order level. Their purpose is solely to ensure that the Government has identified, vetted, and approved the senior leadership responsible for overall contract performance and administration.
23	The technical proposal carries a 20-page limit covering all four factors. Factor 3 alone requires a Work Breakdown Structure, staffing plan, schedule, level of effort by task and personnel, AND a Quality Control Plan. Does the Sample Task Order response (Factor 3) count toward the 20-page limit, or does it have a separate or excluded page count?	The Government acknowledges this question and confirms that the Sample Task Order response (Factor 3) is included within the overall 30-page limit established for the Technical Proposal in Section L.5.2. There is no separate or excluded page count for any individual factor. All four evaluation factors must be addressed within the single, unified 30-page technical proposal submission.
24	Will task orders under this IDIQ require physical site presence and on-the-ground operations as described in the SOW (site surveys, destruction operations, perimeter security), or will the majority of work mirror the remote/desk-based model reflected in the Sample Task Order?	The Government confirms that task orders issued under this IDIQ contract will require physical site presence and on-the-ground operations consistent with the full range of capabilities described in the Mission Support Statement of Work. The desk-based, remote-work model reflected in the Sample Task Order is exclusively a notional evaluation construct and is not indicative of, nor representative of, the nature, scope, or operational character of actual task orders to be issued under this contract. See Question #20 for additional information.
25	Does the Government anticipate issuing task orders requiring personnel to deploy to active conflict zones or areas with no U.S. diplomatic presence, legal protections, or indemnification? If so, how frequently, and in what regions?	The Government confirms that task orders issued under this IDIQ contract may require contractor personnel to deploy to high-risk environments, including areas that may be characterized by active or recent conflict, limited or absent U.S. diplomatic presence, and environments where the U.S. Government cannot provide indemnification or guarantee legal protections for contractor personnel. This requirement is explicitly established in the Mission Support SOW and reflects the inherently unpredictable and urgent nature of the NDF's global WMD threat reduction mission.
26	Clause H-031 requires a facility SECRET clearance and individual SECRET clearances. Must the facility clearance be in place at time of proposal submission, or only prior to contract performance?	The Government confirms that a facility SECRET clearance must be in place at the time of proposal submission. This is a mandatory requirement and not a condition that may be satisfied after proposal submission or prior to contract award. Offerors who do not possess a current, active facility SECRET clearance at the time of proposal submission will be considered non-responsive and their proposals will not be evaluated further.
27	How many personnel does the Government anticipate requiring SECRET clearances under a typical task order? This affects staffing cost modeling and clearance procurement timelines.	The Government confirms that given the sensitive and classified nature of WMD threat reduction operations under this contract, all contractor personnel performing work under this IDIQ contract should be expected to possess SECRET clearances at a minimum. This expectation applies across all labor categories and at all levels of the contract hierarchy, from senior program management through field-deployed technical specialists.
28	Is there a minimum number of personnel the Government expects offerors to maintain on-call or on-retainer at all times to satisfy the 48-hour deployment requirement described in Attachment A?	The Government confirms that at a minimum, the key personnel designated under Clause H-016 must be available and on-call at all times to satisfy the 48-hour deployment requirement described in the Mission Support SOW. Beyond this minimum threshold, the Government relies on each offeror's subject matter expertise and understanding of the mission to propose and maintain a cadre of personnel sufficient to meet the full range of anticipated task order requirements.

29	Section B-008 references a travel estimate template in Section J that must be used for all travel estimates. This template does not appear in the solicitation documents provided. Can the Government provide the Section J travel estimate template?	Please refer to question #10 response.
30	Should DBA insurance be priced as a fixed annual premium or estimated based on projected travel days and destination countries? What geographic regions or risk tiers should offerors assume when developing DBA cost estimates?	DBA insurance costs are not fixed at the IDIQ level and will vary based on the specific requirements, locations, personnel, and risk profiles of individual task orders; DBA insurance must be procured directly by the contractor from a DOL-approved insurance provider for each task order requiring international deployment; and DBA insurance costs will be reimbursed as a direct cost under the applicable DBA Insurance CLIN established in each task order.
31	Task 3 requires notional cost estimates for recommended engagement options as a deliverable. Should these notional cost estimates appear in the technical volume (Factor 3 response), the cost volume, or both?	The Government confirms that the notional cost estimates required as a deliverable under Task 3 of the Sample Task Order shall appear in the Cost Volume (Volume II) only and shall not be included in the Technical Volume (Volume I).
32	Section M states the Government intends to award one IDIQ contract. Can the Government confirm this is a single-award IDIQ and not a multiple-award vehicle?	Confirmed -- Single-Award IDIQ Contract Award
33	The solicitation reserves the right to award without discussions. Does the Government currently intend to proceed without discussions, or does it anticipate conducting a competitive range evaluation?	This provision reflects the Government's current intent to proceed directly to award based on initial proposal submissions without engaging in clarifications, communications, or negotiations with offerors. Offerors should treat this statement as a firm expression of the Government's current intent and prepare their proposals accordingly.
34	For the Sample Task Order specifically, what is the expected period of performance? Is this a base-year-only task order, or would it extend into option years?	The Sample Task Order is NOT a base-year-only or option-year task order - it is a hypothetical evaluation scenario that will never be performed. Offerors should propose a realistic period of performance (60-90 days recommended) that demonstrates their capability to execute similar rapid assessment task orders whenever they may be issued during the IDIQ life.
35	Given that WMD is defined to include fissile, chemical, biological, radiological materials, and fentanyl, does the Government anticipate that near-term task orders will focus more heavily on any particular modality or region (e.g., radiological security, chemical/fentanyl threats, or specific geographic theaters)?	The Government acknowledges this question and understands the strategic importance of this information for offerors seeking to optimize their proposed team compositions, labor category structures, and technical approaches. However, the Government is unable to predict, prioritize, or disclose the specific WMD modalities or geographic regions that will be the focus of near-term or future task orders under this contract.
36	For the Sample Task Order response, to what extent does the Government expect offerors to make and document reasonable assumptions (e.g., about host nation posture, available data, and travel constraints) when developing the Work Breakdown Structure, schedule, and notional costs? Are there specific assumptions the Government would like all offerors to adopt to promote comparability of proposals?	The Government confirms that the development, documentation, and application of reasonable assumptions in the Sample Task Order response is entirely at the offeror's discretion and is itself a meaningful demonstration of the offeror's technical understanding of the requirement. The Government will not prescribe specific assumptions for offerors to adopt, nor will it standardize assumptions across proposals for comparability purposes.
37	Section M states that Factors 1 (Management Approach), 2 (Technical Approach), and 3 (Sample Task Order) are equally important and collectively the most important factors. Can the Government clarify whether the Sample Task Order will be weighted equally with the base Technical Approach in the best-value tradeoff, or whether one of these three factors carries additional discriminating weight in practice?	The Government confirms that Factors 1 (Management Approach), Factor 2 (Technical Approach), and Factor 3 (Sample Task Order) are equally weighted in the evaluation and best value tradeoff determination. No single factor among these three carries additional discriminating weight over the others in practice.
38	In evaluating Relevant Past Performance, how will the Government weigh past performance where the offeror served as prime contractor versus performance where key team members performed similar WMD threat reduction and training work as subcontractors or in a government capacity?	The Government confirms that past performance evaluation under Factor 4 will consider the full range of relevant experience submitted by offerors, including performance as a prime contractor, subcontractor, and in some circumstances, relevant experience of key team members. Offerors' past performance will be evaluated on the basis of information contained in the Offeror's proposal and the information that the Government obtains through other means such as through the Contractor's Performance Assessment Reporting Systems (CPARS).
39	The RFP requires a Program Manager and Deputy Project/Logistics Manager as key personnel, with PM certification or equivalent and at least one holding a SECRET clearance prior to performance. Beyond these minimums, are there particular experience profiles the Government views as especially advantageous for evaluation purposes (e.g., prior leadership on DOS WMD or DTRA CWMD programs, regional expertise, or experience with specific WMD modalities)?	The Government confirms that beyond the minimum key personnel requirements established in Clause H-016, no specific experience profiles, organizational affiliations, program backgrounds, or WMD modalities are designated as especially advantageous for evaluation purposes. These minimum requirements establish the threshold that all offerors must meet to be considered for award. They are not intended to define, limit, or prescribe the full range of qualifications that offerors may propose for their key personnel, nor do they establish a ceiling on the qualifications that offerors may offer as part of a competitive proposal.

40	Will Non-Government Evaluators be allowed to bid on the proposal? We understand they cannot vote, but can their company still bid on the RFP?	The Government confirms that no non-Government evaluators or contractor support personnel are being utilized in the evaluation of proposals submitted in response to this solicitation. This confirmation directly addresses offerors' concerns regarding potential organizational conflicts of interest arising from the participation of contractor support personnel in the source selection process.
41	Will there be single or multiple awardees for each Task Order? Will the TOs be competed, directed, or hybrid?	It is the Government's intention to award one (1) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite-Quantity (IDIQ) Time-and-Materials Labor-Hours contract. Since this is a single-award IDIQ, Task Orders will not be competed among multiple awardees. There is only one contractor holding the IDIQ vehicle, and Task Orders will be directed to that single awardee by the authorized Contracting Officer.
42	Is there interest in applying proven counterproliferation (CP) and counter-WMD (CWMD) methodologies/frameworks in support of NDF (e.g., Pathway Defeat, Opportunity Analysis)?	While the solicitation and SOW do not explicitly reference specific frameworks such as Pathway Defeat or Opportunity Analysis by name, the scope and requirements of the contract strongly suggest that proven CP and CWMD methodologies would be highly relevant and welcomed in support of NDF's mission.
43	How are current sites prioritized for NDF support? Would the Government be open to prioritization methodologies and decision aids to rack and stack sites globally?	The Government does not prescribe a specific site prioritization methodology in the solicitation. However, offerors are encouraged to propose robust prioritization methodologies and decision aids as part of their Technical and Management Approach.
44	Is there a desire to support training requirements with curriculum development as well?	Yes, there is a clear desire and contractual basis to support training requirements with curriculum development under this contract.
45	Is the inclusion of fentanyl under the term WMD in its potential as a Pharmaceutical Based Agent (PBA) or reflective of the Executive Order designating fentanyl as a WMD (even in traditional counter-narcotics operations)?	The inclusion of fentanyl in the SOW's WMD definition most likely reflects a combination of factors, with the primary emphasis on its potential as a Pharmaceutical Based Agent (PBA) and mass casualty threat in the context of NDF's nonproliferation and disarmament mission. The solicitation's inclusion of fentanyl under the WMD definition is most precisely interpreted as reflecting its potential as a Pharmaceutical Based Agent (PBA) and state-sponsored mass casualty threat, consistent with NDF's nonproliferation mission and the current geopolitical context.
46	Which specific areas of expertise are needed when the term “cadre of capable experts” is used (e.g., Microbiologists, Nuclear Engineers, Explosives Ordinance Disposal [EOD] Technicians, Cyber, SOF Operators)? Specific qualifications?	The SOW's use of "cadre of capable experts" implies a broad, multidisciplinary team spanning nuclear, chemical, biological, radiological, explosive, engineering, logistics, security, cyber, medical, policy, and training domains. The solicitation's silence on specific qualifications represents both a gap and an opportunity — offerors that proactively define rigorous, well-justified qualification standards for each discipline will likely differentiate themselves under Factors 1, 2, and 3 of the evaluation criteria, demonstrating superior understanding of NDF's mission requirements and a credible, immediately deployable cadre of experts.
47	How will offerors submit their RFP responses? It is unclear with “electronic submission,” but we’d assume it’d be similar to how Questions are submitted via email to the same Contracting Officer.	Both Technical and Price volumes — are to be submitted electronically via email to Contracting Officer Khoa D. Tran at TranKD@state.gov. Offerors should submit early, request confirmation of receipt, and ensure their initial submission represents their strongest possible proposal, as the Government may award without discussions.
48	Is there a desire to modernize their mission architecture?	While the solicitation does not explicitly call for mission architecture modernization by name, the implicit modernization imperative is clear throughout the SOW and solicitation. However, offerors that proactively propose modern, technology-enabled mission architectures — while remaining grounded in the SOW's core requirements and NDF's nonproliferation mission — will likely differentiate themselves significantly across all non-price evaluation factors, particularly given the Government's explicit emphasis on innovation as a key discriminator in the Management Approach evaluation criteria.
49	Will the Government require integrated data environments, auditability, or decision cycle compression?	Offerors that explicitly propose modern, integrated architectures addressing all three dimensions — and demonstrate how those architectures directly enable NDF's mission.
50	Is there a desire for greater interagency interoperability? And if so, with which offices?	Interagency interoperability is not merely desirable — it is a fundamental mission requirement embedded throughout the SOW and solicitation. NDF's mission to prevent WMD proliferation is inherently interagency in nature, requiring seamless coordination across DoD, DOE/NNSA, the Intelligence Community, DHS, FBI, HHS, DEA, and key international organizations.

51	Is the contractor expected to maintain prepositioned personnel, capabilities, and equipment globally?	The SOW & solicitation does not explicitly use the term "prepositioned" in reference to personnel, capabilities, or equipment. However, the functional requirements of this contract — immediate personnel availability, 48-hour global deployment, 24-28 hour tasking response, and maintenance of a constant state of readiness — collectively establish a de facto global prepositioning requirement across personnel, capabilities, and equipment.
52	How will performance locations be determined at the task order level, and will there be any flexibility or dialogue regarding where work is performed?	Performance locations are Government-designated at the task order level with global scope and no geographic restrictions. However, meaningful flexibility exists — particularly for distributed performance methodologies — and structured dialogue mechanisms are embedded throughout the contract's communication, technical direction, travel approval, and changes frameworks.
53	May qualified local in-country resources, affiliates, or subcontractors be used where legally permissible instead of deploying personnel directly into country?	The use of qualified local in-country resources, affiliates, and subcontractors is implicitly supported and strategically valuable under this contract — consistent with the SOW's cost efficiency imperatives, host nation collaboration requirements, and minimum traveler standards. However, their use must be carefully structured within a comprehensive compliance framework addressing security clearance flow-down, CO consent requirements, SAM registration, OCI disclosure, anti-trafficking compliance, and subcontract reporting obligations.
54	Should offerors expect task orders to be primarily time-and-materials/labor-hour, or will fixed-price task orders be used regularly as well?	Offerors should plan and price primarily for Time-and-Materials/Labor-Hour task orders — this is the clearly stated, structurally confirmed, and mission-appropriate primary contract type under this IDIQ. Fixed-price task orders are explicitly permitted but should be anticipated infrequently — reserved for well-defined, discrete deliverables where scope and cost can be reliably estimated.
55	May past performance examples include relevant experience from subcontractors or team members, or must they be limited to the prime offeror?	Past performance examples may include relevant experience from subcontractors and team members — the solicitation implicitly permits this through its explicit guidance on subcontractor dollar value calculation and its broad emphasis on team composition and capability. However, offerors must carefully observe the solicitation's recency, relevance, dollar value accuracy, and mapping requirements for all cited past performance — regardless of source.
56	What is the designated total page count for the Sample Task Order “Technical Assessment and Advisory Support – Neglected Radiological Material Storage Bunker, Madagascar”?	The solicitation designates no specific page count for the Sample Task Order response — establishing only a 30-page total Technical Proposal limit across all four factors. Offerors should allocate approximately 9-10 pages to the Sample Task Order response — ensuring sufficient depth and detail
57	On average, how many times a year does ACN/NDF occasionally learns of certain sites where (WMD), heavy conventional munitions or other dangerous materials are stored and then deploys to the site.	Under the moderate scenario, ACN/NDF is assumed to identify 4-6 sites per year, issue 3-4 task orders annually, conduct 1-2 in-country deployments per year, with 2 simultaneous active task orders at any given time and an average annual contract value of approximately $1.655M-$3.485M.
58	How many personnel typically deploy on average on a specific project?	Under the moderate scenario, the typical deployment team for a specific ACN/NDF project ranges from 3-5 personnel for remote assessments to 12-16 personnel for full-scale in-country operations — with a weighted average of 6-10 personnel across all mission types when local subcontractors are strategically leveraged.
59	What are the typical combined disciplines of the personnel that deploy?	The typical combined disciplines of deployed personnel are mission-type dependent — varying based on the specific WMD threat category, mission phase, geographic location, and host nation context. The typical combined disciplines of deployed personnel under the moderate scenario reflect a multi-disciplinary, mission-tailored team built around five universal disciplines — Program Management, Safety/Health, Security, Logistics, and SME (WMD).
60	How long does the deployment last on average?	Under the moderate scenario, the average deployment duration ranges from 2-4 weeks for remote rapid assessments to 4-9 months for full-scale WMD elimination operations — with a weighted average total task order duration of 6-12 weeks and a weighted average in-country duration of 2-6 weeks across all mission types.
61	What are the typical planned outcomes?	The typical planned outcomes under this contract reflect a comprehensive, multi-level framework spanning strategic WMD proliferation prevention through tactical rapid assessment and technical advisory products — with the ultimate goal of removing, destroying, or disabling dangerous weapons systems and building host nation capacity to independently manage WMD threats.

62	How many desktop studies do you undertake annually?	Desktop studies serve as the primary rapid response tool for newly identified WMD sites, the default analytical methodology for interagency advisory support, and the foundational analytical platform for all subsequent in-country mission phases. Moderately 6 studies annually.
63	How long do the desktop studies typically last?	The solicitation does not specify a typical or average desktop study duration — establishing only that desktop studies must be conducted within a compressed timeframe to support urgent decision-making. Under the moderate scenario, desktop study duration varies by type — ranging from 1-2 weeks for interagency advisory studies to 6-8 weeks for complex technical analysis studies — with a weighted average of 2-4 weeks across all desktop study types.
64	How many personnel are assigned to be part of the desk top study team ?	The solicitation does not specify a typical or average number of personnel assigned to desktop study teams. Under the moderate scenario, desktop study team size is study-type dependent — ranging from 3-4 personnel for focused interagency advisory and market research studies to 5-7 personnel for complex technical analysis and policy studies — with a weighted average of 4-5 personnel across all desktop study types.
65	Do you have both full-time SMEs and on-call, standby part-time SMES to support the contract?	The solicitation does not prescribe a specific SME staffing model — but the combination of immediate availability requirements, cost efficiency imperatives, unpredictable mission demand, and broad WMD spectrum coverage needs makes a pure full-time or pure on-call model impractical.
66	How many standby personnel are required, typically? Is that number growing year over year?	The solicitation does not specify a required number of standby personnel and provides no data on year-over-year growth trends. The most honest and accurate answer — consistent with the question's candid framing — is "we don't know with precision" — and any offeror claiming otherwise is making assumptions not supported by the solicitation.
67	What is the annual staff planning forecast year over year for the next 5 years	The solicitation provides no quantitative basis for a precise annual staff planning forecast — and any offeror claiming otherwise is making assumptions not supported by the solicitation. The most honest and technically credible answer acknowledges this uncertainty while demonstrating analytical rigor through explicit, well-justified assumptions.
68	Which categories/capabilities of personnel are required to have a clearance and at what level?	The solicitation explicitly requires: SECRET facility clearance for the prime contractor organization; SECRET personnel clearances for all personnel accessing classified material or areas; Security flow-down to all subcontractors with classified or CUI access
69	Per the RFP, conventional munitions or other dangerous materials are stored and often these sites have inadequate measures in place to ensure their security. How many times a year does this likely occur?	The solicitation provides no quantitative basis for determining how frequently ACN/NDF identifies conventional munitions or dangerous materials sites — and the honest answer is simply "we don't know." Under the moderate scenario, total annual site identifications are estimated at 4-8 per year — with conventional munitions representing the most frequent category at 2-4 per year — growing at approximately 5-8% annually over the five-year contract period. However these estimates carry low confidence.
70	In general, what is the likely type and scale of security required?	The likely type and scale of security required under this contract spans a wide spectrum — from minimal information security for remote desktop studies to maximum multi-layer physical and operational security for full-scale WMD elimination and material movement operations. The unarmed personnel constraint is the most critical security planning factor — making host nation security force coordination the foundational security dependency for all in-country operations. Offerors that propose credible, standards-compliant, host nation-integrated security architectures — scaled appropriately to each mission type and WMD material category — will demonstrate the comprehensive technical understanding of NDF's security requirements
71	Section L.5.1 indicates that Volume I is limited to 20 pages, however the response requirements regarding the Sample Task Order appear to warrant more page space. Would the Government consider increasing the page limit to account for complex elements like a Sample Task Order Work Breakdown Structure that is meant to be “comprehensive” and a Sample Task Order Quality Control Plan?	Amendment 0001 specifies a 30-page limit for Volume I: Technical Proposal.
72	Will the Government provide any detail regarding what is required to be included in the Quality Control Plan for the Sample Task Order?	Deleted from the requirement
73	Evaluation factors for the Sample Task Order response refer to key personnel, however these are not identified in Section L, nor are they excluded from page limits. Will the Government please clarify?	Amendment 0001 revised Section L and M of the solicitation.

74	The solicitation appears ambiguous regarding small business participation requirements. Please clarify whether this acquisition is unrestricted or set aside, whether a small business participation percentage is required, whether subcontracting goals apply, and whether offerors must submit a Small Business Participation Plan or Small Business Subcontracting Plan.	This acquisition is unrestricted. Section L.5.1.1 states that the Subcontracting Plan should be included in Factor 1: Management Approach if the offeror is a Large Business entity based on the NAICS code used in the solicitation. The solicitation does not require a separate "Small Business Participation Plan."
75	Please provide the applicable NAICS code and corresponding size standard for this procurement, as they do not appear to be identified in the solicitation.	The applicable NAICS code for this procurement is: 541690 - Other Scientific and Technical Consulting Services. The corresponding small business size standard is: $19.0 million in average annual receipts.
76	Please clarify whether page limitations apply to the technical proposal, resumes, organizational charts, past performance information, and/or pricing volumes.	The Gov't clarifies the page limitations as follows: 30 pages applies to the narrative portion of the Vol I - Technical Proposal. Not included are Cover Page, Letter, and Table of Contents, resumes, org charts, past performance narratives.
77	Please clarify whether Key Personnel are required for the IDIQ and/or sample task order. If required, please identify the required labor categories, minimum qualifications, resume requirements, and whether letters of commitment are required.	IDIQ Level Key Personnel: See Section H-016 provision. Require: resume(max 2 pages per person), proof of certification, Proof of clearance, letter of commitment signed by the individual. For the Sample Task Order evaluation, offerors shall propose Key Personnel appropriate to the scenario described in Attachment B (radiological material storage bunker assessment in Madagascar). Require: resume (max 2 pages per person), relevant qualifications & experience, availability statement. IDIQ personnel will be evaluated under Factor I: Mgt Approach; Sample Task Order will be evaluated under Factor 3.
78	Please clarify whether a Facility Clearance (FCL) or cleared personnel are required at the IDIQ level or anticipated task order level, and whether uncleared contractors are eligible for award.	IDIQ-Level Requirements (Required for Contract Award): SECRET level FCL is required for contract award. The FCL must be active and in good standing at time of proposal submission. Offerors must provide proof of current SECRET FCL with their proposal. Personnel Security Clearances (PCL): At least one Key Personnel must possess an active SECRET clearance prior to contract performance; Additional contractor personnel requiring access to classified material must have SECRET clearances issued by DCSA prior to contract performance. Clearances must be active at time of contract award. Note: Contractors in the process of obtaining a SECRET FCL but who do not have an active clearance at time of proposal submission are not eligible for award. The Government will not delay award to allow contractors to obtain required clearances.
79	Please clarify whether contractors performing advisory, assessment, or concept design activities under this IDIQ may later compete for implementation task orders related to those recommendations without creating an Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI).	As a genral rule under this IDIQ, 1.) Advisory/assessment work on Project A does NOT preclude competing for implementation work on unrelated Project B; 2.) Advisory/assessment work on Project A DOES create an OCI for implementation work on that same Project A unless adequately mitigated or waived; 3.) Contractors should assume that performing concept design or detailed proposal work will preclude them from implementation of that specific project unless the Government explicitly states otherwise in the task order
80	Please clarify whether performance may occur in sanctioned or restricted countries and whether ITAR/EAR export compliance requirements are anticipated under this IDIQ.	General Policy: Performance under this IDIQ may occur in any location worldwide, including countries with complex geopolitical situations. Contractors must be aware that performance in sanctioned countries will be the exemption, and not the norm. However, performance is subject to all applicable U.S. sanctions, export controls, and legal restrictions. Most task orders will likely involve performance in allied or partner nations and task orders requiring performance in sanctioned countries will be clearly identified. Given the nature of WMD threat reduction work, contractors must comply with all applicable export control regulations, including ITAR/EAR export compliance requirements.
81	The SOW states personnel must be available to travel with as little as 48 hours' notice. Please clarify whether this rapid deployment requirement applies to all task orders and whether standby/surge readiness costs are allowable.	The Government's position is rapid deployment capability is a required contractor qualification, not a separately compensable service at the IDIQ level. Contractors are expected to maintain surge capacity as part of their normal business operations. Standby costs may be negotiated for specific task orders where the Government determines dedicated surge capacity is necessary and most task orders will compensate only for actual work performed, with costs of maintaining availability included in hourly rates.
82	Please clarify whether the Government intends to provide Government-furnished information such as prior assessments, intelligence products, interagency coordination, or classified briefings at the task order level.	YES - The Government intends to provide Government-furnished information at the task order level to enable contractors to perform the required advisory, assessment, and technical consulting services. The nature and extent of GFI will vary by task order based on the specific requirements, classification level, and operational context.
83	Please clarify the relative importance of technical approach, staffing, schedule realism, rapid mobilization capability, and cost realism within the evaluation methodology.	Please see M.2 of Clause M-000

84	Since the solicitation contemplates fixed-price, labor-hour, T&M, and cost-reimbursement task orders, please clarify whether an approved accounting system or DCAA-approved accounting system is required for award eligibility.	For both Time and Materials (T&M) and Cost-Reimbursement contracts, the government requires the contractor to have an adequate accounting system, which is typically audited and approved by the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA).
85	Please clarify whether contractors are expected to independently provide medical evacuation, emergency medical support, security evacuation, or hostile environment support services during overseas performance.	Contractor responsibilities for emergency support services vary by location and will be specified at the task order level. The Government does not expect contractors to independently provide all emergency services, but contractors must have plans and capabilities to address foreseeable risks.
86	Please clarify whether Defense Base Act (DBA) insurance is anticipated for all overseas task orders and whether DBA costs should be proposed at the IDIQ level or only at the task order level.	Offerors should assume that most task orders will require DBA insurance due to the overseas nature of WMD threat reduction work. DBA Costs: Task Order Level Only - NOT IDIQ Level
87	Please provide the anticipated number of IDIQ awards, estimated annual task order volume, and typical task order dollar range anticipated under this procurement.	The IDIQ structure is specifically designed to accommodate unpredictable requirements. Section B-010 explains: "This is an indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) contract... Contract types for the individual task orders will fall under one or more of the following, depending on the type, complexity, and urgency of the task order requirement: fixed-price, cost-reimbursement, labor-hour, and time-and-materials."
88	Please clarify Government expectations regarding Contractor Acquired Property (CAP), including ownership, reporting requirements, and disposition of specialized PPE and CBRNE equipment purchased under task orders.	Under this IDIQ, CAP specifically includes: Specialized Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) Equipment, Other specialized equipment purchased specifically for task order performance. The SOW explicitly states: "contractor must obtain approval from the CO before purchasing or otherwise obtaining CAP for use in the performance of the task order to get reimbursed by the Gov't."
89	Please clarify whether the Government anticipates the majority of task orders to be remotely executed analytical efforts, OCONUS advisory support, or hands-on operational implementation efforts.	Offerors should structure their organizations and proposals to excel at all three types of work, with particular emphasis on rapid response OCONUS advisory capability and cost-effective remote analytical support.
90	Please clarify whether the $20,000 minimum guarantee applies per awardee or collectively across all IDIQ awardees.	The Government clarifies that the $20,000 minimum guarantee applies to the single awardee under this IDIQ contract. This is a single-award IDIQ contract, meaning: Only ONE (1) contractor will be awarded the IDIQ
91	Please clarify whether task orders awarded in the final option year may include option periods extending beyond the base IDIQ expiration date consistent with FAR 52.216-22.	Yes - Task orders awarded in Option Year 4 (or any IDIQ period) may include option periods extending beyond the IDIQ expiration date. This provision is consistent with FAR 52.216-22 and provides necessary flexibility for both the Government and contractor to complete mission-critical work without artificial interruptions due to IDIQ expiration.
92	Please clarify whether offerors must demonstrate existing in-house WMD subject matter experts at proposal submission or whether contingent hires/subcontractors are acceptable.	Given the emphasis on "immediate availability" and "48 hours' notice" response times, the Government likely expects a credible staffing approach, but the solicitation does not explicitly prohibit contingent arrangements. Your proposal should clearly demonstrate how you will ensure rapid mobilization regardless of your staffing approach.