Special Notice: 2026 VIPR I-BPA Solicitation Updates

Agency Name: USDA - Forest Service

Contracting Office: Incident Procurement Operations - Equipment & Services Branch (VIPR)

Notice Type: Special Notice

Subject: Updates to VIPR Agreement Language, Specification Revisions, and Onboarding for 2026

Description:

The USDA Forest Service – IPO, Equipment & Services Branch, is publishing this notice to announce the most recent changes made to language, revisions, specification changes, and Onboarding opportunities. All listed changes will be implemented within the identified VIPR I-BPA's starting in 2026.

This notice aims to provide clarity on upcoming requirements, changes, and onboarding for 2026.

<u>Updated I-BPA Language and Specification Requirement:</u>

Prohibition on awarding government entities.

- B.3 BASIS OF AWARD – (c) Awards to a Government Entities are prohibited. A quote received from a vendor with a SAM registration business type of U.S. Government Entity will not receive an award.

Track Pads for Miscellaneous and Heavy Equipment (Masticators, Feller Bunchers, Excavators (All Types)).

- Track Pads that will be accepted: Bolt-on or Chain-on styles only. (Clip-on Track pads would not be accepted due to the conditions we require the machines to operate in.) – Must be documented on the Resource Order.
- Attribute added for rubber or polyurethane pavement track pads for Boom Masticator, Feller Buncher, and Excavator. Experience shows when incidents are utilizing paved roads or hard pack gravel roads for control lines, they want rubber tires, or track pads for Boom Masticators, Feller Bunchers, and Excavators to avoid damaging the road surface.

Helicopter Operation and Communication Trailers Update to D.21.8.1.

- D.21.8.1 RATES OF PAYMENTS –Payment will be at rates specified in the agreement that is in effect at the time of the order.

2026 Mechanic with Service Truck.

- D.2.3 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
    - Update to scanner capabilities.
    - Torque wrench added.
- Section E Technical Quote
    - Must provide a minimum of three (3) or more pictures/files of this resource to include:

    - Each Offeror shall create a Unique Identification for the Mechanic that will contain the First and Last name of the person as shown on the state issued driver's license.
    - Each Mechanic must complete and submit a signed resume. Certificates for all mechanic qualifications claimed must be provided with the resume.
    - Picture of the crane. To include the attachment to the truck.
    - Picture of the crane data plate.

2026 Vehicle with Driver.

- D.2.1 EQUIPMENT TYPES –
    - Add max bed length for pickups (103 inches) – this accommodates industry change.
    - Introduce smaller stake side (Type 3).
    - Clarify bed availability (no toppers, racks, etc.).
    - Add model year advantage points.
    - Update passenger limits and definitions.
- D.2.2 TRANSPORTATION –
    - Clarified no greater than an 8-passenger vehicle to include the driver.
- D.2.2.1 Tire Requirements to match previously approved all-terrain tires.
- D.23 Added Handheld radio as a requirement – standard language.

2026 Fuel Tender.

- Addition of Type 4 Fuel Tender – 600-999 gallons of fuel. 200 tanks of gas, diesel, and non-ethanol. Meet the need to bringing non-ethanol. No dual typing but overlap on the gallons.
- Fuel markup rate set at 10%.

Trailer Mounted Handwash Vendor Name.

- Language added to D.2.1.2.3(g)(3) – Equipment ID and Name, city, and state of Contractor shall appear on all four (4) sides of the Handwash Unit in lettering at least two (2) inches in height.
- E.2 instructions align with D.2.1.2.3 section. Both sections reflect to say markings on all four (4) sides.

Ambulance

- D.2.6 TRANSPORTATION: (a) All vehicles offered and used under this Agreement shall be licensed and legally operable on all roads. All vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,001 pounds and greater shall have: a) annual USDOT certified vehicle inspection; or b) current Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Inspection. (49 CFR 396.23)
- (b) All vehicles shall be in sound mechanical condition with sufficient horsepower and mainframe configurations to ensure successful performance on roads and highways, or in terrain described in this solicitation. All vehicles under this Agreement shall be able to be legally driven on highways under their own power and be able to travel at a minimum of 50 miles an hour.

Rapid Extraction Module (REMS) will be solicited through VIPR in 2026.

- Addition of REMS Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 into the VIPR System.
- Addition of REMS following the PMS 552, with the exception of replacing Single Resource Boss requirement with Fire Fighter Type 1.
- ALS is an attribute on both Type 2 and 3.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) will be solicited through VIPR in 2026.

- Continued to be administered by the At-Incident Management Support Branch (AIMS).
- Addition of OHV Type 1, Type 2, Type 3, and Type 4 into the VIPR System.
- Align OHV Typing to match the PMS 200 for standardization amongst agency and vendor equipment.
- Addition of language regarding GPS trackers.
- Unique VINs will be entered for each DPL position. Allowing for a VIN to be entered one time and hosted by only one dispatch center.

Single Fallers and Falling Modules will not be re-solicited in 2026. Current solicitation will be re-opened for on-boarding.

Onboarding for Spring 2026:

Onboarding/On-Ramping was determined to be in the best interest of the Government and will be initiated for quote submittal for ALL VIPR resource categories during the open season of 2026; allowing current and newly interested parties and resources to be added during the annual Contracting Officer review period.

Onboarding Continued…

EXHIBIT H - GEOGRAPHIC AREA TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(b) Open Season On-Ramping. If permissible, the USFS will determine whether it would be in the Government's best interest to initiate an open season on-ramping process each year during the annual Contracting Officer's review period. This may be done in response to Fire and Aviation Management program office needs, competition levels, or other factors. When initiated by the Regional program offices, the open season on-ramping process would allow additional contractor awards and an opportunity for current awardees to add new resources to their agreements.

(c) Implementation of on-ramping would be subject to the following conditions:

(1) An open season notice is published in Federal Business Opportunities in accordance with FAR Part 5, Publicizing Contract Action.

(2) An open season solicitation is issued under current Federal procurement law.

(3) Any Offeror already possessing an agreement will automatically be given an opportunity to submit new resources as part of the CO annual review and roll over modification process. All proposed resources are subject to the original award criteria.

(4) Any new Offeror that meets the eligibility requirements set forth in the open season solicitation may submit a quote through the VIPR system in response to the solicitation.

(5) The award decision under the open season solicitation is based upon the same evaluation factors/sub-factors as the original solicitation.

(6) A new Offeror's quote must meet all of the Acceptability Pass/Fail Criteria of the original solicitation.

(7) The terms and conditions of any resulting new IBPA awards are identical to the original awards and solicitation, to include period of performance.

(8) Immediately upon on-ramping and at conclusion of the CO annual review/roll over modification period, any additional Contractors or accepted new resources to existing agreements are eligible to receive dispatches/BPA Calls with the same ordering procedures as listed within the agreement.

Additional Information:

Interested parties are highly encouraged to review the I-BPA templates for the addressed changes. For further details, please contact the listed Contracting Officer and/or your Regional Contract Operations POC.

Note: This notice is solely for informational and planning purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation. Responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government for a binding agreement. Interested parties are highly encouraged to read the solicitation in its entirety prior to submission of quotation.