UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA (USAGM)

USAGM Kuwait Transmitting Station
For
Internet Circuit for 24 Ips

INTRODUCTION

This is a combined synopsis/solicitation for commercial products or commercial services prepared in accordance with the format in subpart 12.6, as supplemented with additional information included in this notice. This announcement constitutes the only solicitation; proposals are being requested, and a written solicitation will not be issued.

This combined synopsis / solicitation number 951700-26-R-0006 is issued as a Request for Proposal (RFP).

ACQUISITION AUTHORITY

This acquisition is for a commercial item or service and is conducted under the authority of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 12 – Acquisition of Commercial Products and Commercial Services & FAR Part 13 – Simplified Acquisition Procedures.

This solicitation document and incorporated provisions and clauses are those in effect through the Federal Acquisition Circular 2026-01; Effective Date, 13 March 2026.

NORTH AMERICAN INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (NAICS) CODE

The NAICS code for this procurement is 517810; All Other Telecommunications, and the Small Business Administration (SBA) Standard Size of $40 million.

ACQUISITION STATUS

This acquisition shall be procured as full and open.

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT

The U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) shall furnish all labor, equipment, materials, licensing, installation, testing, and support necessary to provide a 400 Mbps symmetrical, dedicated Internet Circuit via Microwave link to the USAGM Kuwait Transmitting Station. Further details are described in Attachment A – Performance Work Statement, to this solicitation.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The anticipated period of performance (PoP) for this acquisition is as follows:

Transition Period:	August 26, 2026 to September 25, 2026
Base Period:	September 26, 2026 to August 25, 2027
Option Year 1:	August 26, 2027 to August 25, 2028
Option Year 2	August 26, 2028 to August 25, 2029
Option Year 3:	August 26, 2029 to August 25, 2030
Option Year 4:	August 26, 2030 to August 25, 2031

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CONTRACT TYPE
Firm-Fixed Price.

Contract Line Items Number (CLINs) and item, quantities unit of measure, and description are identified under the Supplier / Services section of this RFP.

SOLICITATION DATES / TIME:
SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS DUE DATE: Deadline for receipt of questions are due no later than 12:00 PM Eastern Time (ET) on Tues., 14 July 2026.

Offerors may submit written questions regarding the solicitation via e-mail to Nicole Wright, Contracting Officer at NWright@usagm.gov. Questions received after this date run the risk of not being answered. Only written questions will receive a response. It is required that each question should include the document name, document date, specific page, paragraph, clause or other definitive citation requiring clarification.

Subject line for Questions is as follows: **Response to "Combined Synopsis / Solicitation No.: 951700-26-R-0006 – USAGM Internet Circuit for 24 Ips, Kuwait Transmitting Station."**

PROPOSAL DUE DATE: Proposals are due no later than 12:00 PM Eastern Time (ET) on Thurs., 23 July 2026.

Proposals shall be emailed to Ms. Nicole Wright, Contracting Officer at NWright@usagm.gov with the following in the subject line: **Response to "Combined Synopsis / Solicitation No.: 951700-26-R-0006 – USAGM Internet Circuit for 24 Ips, Kuwait Transmitting Station."**

*****LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AND PROPOSALS SENT BY FACSIMLE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED*****

ATTACHMENT TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOCUMENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Attachment A	Performance Work Statement

PROPOSAL VOLUME REQUIREMENTS

The following are descriptions of the information that shall be provided with the proposal.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION	PAGE LIMITS
VOLUME I - ADMINISTRATIVE	
The Administrative Volume shall also include: This volume should also contain the following item: • Cover Letter	No Page Limit

VOLUME II – TECHNICAL APPROACH & CAPABILITY	
• Technical Approach & Capability • Resume of Key Personnel	7 Page Limit No Page Limit

VOLUME III – PAST PERFORMANCE	
Past Performance contract reference	No Page Limit

VOLUME IV – PRICE	
Completed "Pricing Template"	No Page Limit / or complete "Section 1 – Continuation Sheet" attached

A. VOLUME I – ADMINISTRATIVE

The offeror shall provide a cover letter. The cover letter shall identify the RFP (951700-2-R-0006), date of

submittal, acknowledgement of any amendments, and the Offeror's name, address, Taxpayers ID number, CAGE Code, and POC authorized to negotiate and sign on behalf of the Offeror (include phone number and email address). Cover letters will not count against any page limitation.

If applicable, the offeror shall identify any subcontractors / teaming partners and provide corresponding cage code(s).

This volume shall include the following items which will be evaluated on a pass-fail basis.

- Commitment Letter: Commitment letters for all key personnel shall be submitted with the proposal submission by the proposal due date. All commitment letters shall be signed and dated by the proposed key personnel within 5-days of the proposal due date. The date of signature must accompany the signature in the signed commitment letter. The commitment letter shall affirmatively state: (1) that the key personnel granted permission to the prime contractor to use his/her resume, and (2) is willing to work for the proposing offeror on the instant solicitation. If offeror is a sole proprietor proposing itself as key personnel, the offeror must identify as such. If revised proposals are required, commitment letter must be updated, signed and dated within 5 days of the revised due date for submission.

B. VOLUME II - TECHNICAL APPROACH & CAPABILITY

The offeror shall submit sufficient information for the Government to make a comprehensive evaluation of the Offeror's technical approach and capability in meeting the requirements listed in the PWS for successful performance. Resume(s) should be submitted for key personnel and will be evaluated.

C. VOLUME III - PAST PERFORMANCE

The Government is requesting that the Offeror provide up to three (3) past performance contract references that reflect recent and relevant experience. Recent experience is defined as that completed within the past three (3) years from the proposal due date with 12-months of the period of performance completed. Relevant experience is defined as that which is similar in scope, size, and complexity to the work described in the attached PWS and contract type. Past performance contract references can come from the offeror or the subcontractor, as long as they served as Prime Contractor for the past performance referenced. If the Offeror submits recent and relevant projects performed by a subcontractor as a past performance reference, the offeror must also explain how the subcontractor significantly contributed to the performance of the referenced project and how the offeror expects the subcontractor to significantly contribute to the successful performance of the solicited work.

Each Past Performance contract reference must include a Past Performance reference sheet. All past performance reference sheets shall include contract / delivery order number, contract type, program name, total contract cost, short description of work performed, reasons why the project is considered relevant by the offeror, name, email addresses. For those references where a Past Performance Questionnaire (PPQ) will be submitted, the offeror shall also include a valid telephone number and email address for the person completing the PPQ.

Past Performance contract references must be completed by the customer, Contracting Officer Representative (COR), or the Contracting Officer using the PPQ's. PPQ's are required for contract <u>not</u>

listed in CPARs only.

The Offeror shall provide PPQ's to its customer references and instruct them to submit them in accordance with the instructions in the PPQ. Questionnaires must be received via email no later than the date and time specified in the PPQ. Questionnaires that are not received by the due date and time may not be evaluated.

D. VOLUME IV - PRICE

The contract awarded will be awarded as Firm-Fixed Price. The Offeror shall submit CLIN Structure in RFP No. 951700-26-R-0006. Unit or total line item pricing shall not exceed two (2) decimal places for cents. If unit or total line item pricing exceeds two decimal places for cents, the Government will round to the nearest cent not exceeding the total line item pricing. All pricing shall be converted into U.S. Dollar (USD).

The offeror shall propose a firm-fixed price by submitting prices in accordance with the attached pricing structure. The price template can be seen and completed on the SF1449 "Section 1 – Continuation Sheet" on the solicitation document.

All pricing shall be traceable to the CLINs and PWS task areas.

(End of Provision)

EVALUATION

(a) 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 shall be used to evaluate offers:

FACTOR 1: Technical Approach & Capability
FACTOR 2: Past Performance
FACTOR 3: Price

Technical and past performance, when combined, in accordance with FAR 15.304, the relative importance of all other evaluation factors, when combined, when compared to price.

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

(c) A written notice of award or acceptance of an offer, mailed or otherwise furnished to the successful offeror within the time for acceptance specified in the offer, shall result in a binding contract without further action by either party. Before the offer's specified expiration time, the Government may accept an offer (or part of an offer), whether or not there are negotiations after its receipt, unless a written notice of withdrawal is received before award.

1. BASIS OF CONTRACT AWARD

Unless all offers are rejected, the Government intends to award a firm-fixed price contract to responsible offeror whose offer, conforming to the solicitation, is determined to be the **best overall value**, price and other factors considered. The Government may select for award the offeror whose price is not necessarily the lowest, but whose technical and past performance is more advantageous to the Government warrants the additional cost. Offerors must satisfy the requirements described in the SOW, as well as other Request for Proposal (RFP) requirements. Proposals that take exception to any performance criteria may be deemed unacceptable.

The Government will select for award the most advantageous proposal representing the **best overall value** to the Government, based upon an assessment of non-price factors (e.g., Technical Capability, Past Performance, etc.) and the Price. All evaluation factors other than price, when combined are considered significantlymore important than price.

The Government intends to evaluate proposals and may award a contract without discussions. However, the Government reserves the right to conduct discussions if determined by the CO to be necessary.

Therefore, each initial offer should contain the contractor's best proposal from both a price and a technicalstandpoint.

Proposals received in response to this solicitation will be evaluated by the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) inaccordance with the evaluation criteria set forth herein. The Government intends to make one award to the responsible contractor whose proposal, conforming to the solicitation, is determined most advantageous to theGovernment, all technical and price factors considered.

Please note that after award, if an unsuccessful offeror requests information on an award that was based on factors other than price alone, a brief explanation of the basis for the award shall be provided.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and to award no contract at all, depending on the quality of the proposal(s) submitted and the availability of funds.

PASS / FAIL CRITERIA:

COMMITMENT LETTERS: Commitment letters for all key personnel shall be submitted with the proposal submission by the proposal due date. All commitment letter shall be signed and dated by the proposed key personnel within 5-days of the proposal due date. The date of signature must accompany that signature in the signed commitment letter. The commitment letter shall affirmatively state: (1) that the key granted permission to the prime contractor to use his/her resume, and (2) is willing to work for the proposing offeror on the instant solicitation. If offeror is a sole proprietor proposing itself as key personnel, the offeror must identify as such. If revised proposals are required, commitment letters must be updated, signed, and dated within 10 days of the revised due date for submission.

2.) EVALUATION FACTORS

PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS / EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation will be based on a complete assessment of the offeror's proposal. Proposals shall be evaluated on the following three (3) factors:

FACTOR 1: Technical Approach & Capability
FACTOR 2: Past Performance
FACTOR 3: Price

Technical Approach & Capability and Past Performance are equal, and when combined are significantly more important than Price. However, Price is still a substantial factor. As the evaluation becomes more equal under Factor 1 & 2, price will become more significant in the award decision.

a.) FACTOR 1: Technical Approach & Capability

The Government will evaluate the adequacy of the offeror's approach, completeness, and understanding of the requirements specified in the solicitation and all attached documents, including the PWS, as demonstrated by the proposed technical approach and capabilities. The proposal shall demonstrate how the offeror will comply with Government taskings and requirements throughout the performance period. Data previously submitted, or presumed to be known (e.g., descriptions of previous project performed for the Government) cannot be considered as a part of the proposal unless physically incorporated into the proposal. Clarity, completeness, and conciseness are essential.

The offeror shall submit resume(s) for Key Personnel that demonstrate experience and required qualifications and certification listed in the PWS, section 9. The Government will evaluate the experience and capabilities of the contractor's proposed Key Personnel and the Resume(s) submitted with the Contractor's proposal.

The Contractor shall provide management approach for staffing and oversight to include the following:

- Provide organization and staffing approach to attaining a high level of customer service and to accomplish performance objectives.

The evaluation will include an assessment of:

- Proposed **Project Manager**
- Must have 5 or more years Network Engineering experience, in related environment
- Personnel, tools/equipment, supplies/materials
- Licenses, permits, and registrations
- CISCO, CCNA, or BA degree in IT related area
- Must speak English

The Contractor shall have the personnel, organization, and administrative controls necessary to ensure that each task is completed satisfactorily. Personnel, identified in the contractor's staffing plan shall be considered essential to this contract. The Contractor shall provide evidence, such

as resumes, that shows proposed personnel possess the proper qualifications and experience required to perform the requirements of this contract.

Contractor personnel shall have demonstrated experience, documented in their resumes, referencing the required skills for successfully completing these tasks. All personnel shall be fully trained and ready to perform the tasks of this contract.

b.) FACTOR 2: Past Performance

The contractor shall submit completed PPQ information for at least three (3) contracts within the past three (3) year with similar work described in this Performance Work Statement

c.) FACTOR 3: Price

The Government will evaluate the total price (including all options) to determine the price reasonableness. The Government will evaluate the total price (including all options) to determine the price reasonableness. For a price to bereasonable, it must represent a price to the government that a prudent person would pay when consideration is given to prices in the market. Price reasonableness is established through adequate price competition, as described in FAR 13.104.

3.) RATING METHODS

a. FACTOR I: TECHNICAL APPROACH & CAPABILITY

Technical Approach & Capability shall be given a rating identified in Table 1 below that reflects the degree to which the proposed approach meets or does not meet the minimum performance or capability requirements through an assessment of the attributes, strengths, weaknesses, deficiencies, and risks of a proposal. If the contractor simply meets the minimum requirements, there will be no deficiencies or strengths identified.

Table 1. Combined Technical / Risk Rating Method

Adjectival	Description
Exceptional	Greatly exceeds all minimum requirements of the criteria; has a high probability of success; contains no weaknesses or deficiencies.
Good	Exceeds all the minimum requirements of the criteria; has an above average probability of success; contains no significant weaknesses and only minor, correctable weaknessesexist.
Acceptable	Meets all the minimum requirements of the criteria; has an average probability of success; no significant weaknesses and any deficiencies can be readily corrected.
Marginal	Fails to meet one or more of the minimum requirements of the criteria; low probabilityof success; major weaknesses and/or significant number of deficiencies exist.

Unacceptable	Fails to meet any of the minimum requirements of the criteria; proposal needs major revisions; very low probability of success.

***NOTE:** If an offeror is determined "unacceptable" under Factor 1 – Technical Approach & Capability, the offeror's proposal will be considered unacceptable overall and shall not be considered for award.

b. Factor II: Past Performance

The Government will evaluate how well the offeror has performed on contracts that have been determined to be both recent and relevant to the SOW.

Past performance is a measure of the degree to which the offeror satisfied its customers in the past and complied with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. The Government may contact some, all or none of each offeror's customers to ask whether: (1) the offeror is capable, efficient, and effective; (2) the offeror's performance conformed to the terms and conditions of its contract; (3) the offeror was reasonable and cooperative during performance; (4) the offeror was committed to customer satisfaction; (5) the offeror was able to hire and retain qualified personnel to the satisfaction of the customer, and (6) if they would select the same Contractor or a different Contractor, given the opportunity.

The Government may also use other information available from other sources to evaluate an offeror's past performance, which may include, but not limited to: Past Performance Questionnaire (PPQ), Federal, State, and local Government agencies, Better Business Bureaus, published media, electronic databases such as the Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) and the Past Performance Information Retrieval System contact reference other than those provided by the offeror.

In the case of an offeror without a record of relevant past performance or for whom no information on past performance is available, the offeror will receive a neutral rating.

Relevance of Experience: The Offeror's experience will be evaluated on the degree of relevance to the requirement on the basis of similarity in size, scope, complexity, technical difficulty, contract type, and period of performance. Only recent experience will be evaluated. Evaluations may include interviews with previous clients of the contractorand may include interviews with previous clients of proposed personnel.

Past Performance Assessments: The Offeror's 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. The past performance evaluation will assess the Offeror's record of providing high quality services of a similar nature in amanner that ensures maximum efficiency, timeliness, cost effectiveness and overall client satisfaction.

If some of the Offeror's experience is relevant and the rest is not, only the relevant experience will be evaluated forpurposes of past performance. If no experience is relevant or the experience that is relevant cannot be evaluated due to a reference's failure to respond, a rating of neutral will be assigned for past performance as defined below.

The Government will evaluate Factors 2 using the following adjectival ratings.

Rating	***Symbol***	***Definition***
Neutral	**N**	No past performance available for evaluation. Offeror has asserted it has no equalor similar relevant past performance experience. Proposal receives no merit or demerit for this factor.
Outstanding	**O**	The Offeror's past performance demonstrates no issues, concerns, or risks associated with delivering timely services and performance. Past performance surveys and the Offeror's experiences indicate that the Offeror is capable of exceeding requirements of the contract. The Contractor has significant experience with equal requirements.
Good	**G**	The Offeror's record of past performance indicates there is very little risk associated with receiving quality products, timely services and full contract performance. Past performance surveys and the Offeror's experience indicate theOfferor will meet or exceed requirements of the contract. The Contractor has experience with equal requirements.
Acceptable	**A**	The Offer's record of past performance indicates that there is some potential riskassociated with receiving quality products, timely services, and contract performance. Past performance surveys and the Offeror's experience indicate theOfferor may have some problems during performance of the contract. The Contractor has limited experience with equal requirements.
Unsatisfactory	**U**	The Offeror's record of past performance indicates it will be unable to performsuccessfully on the contract.

c. Factor III: Price

Price does not receive a rating. In accordance with FAR Part 13.104, the Government will evaluate whether the proposed price is fair and reasonable under Factor 3 above. If an offeror's price is not found to be fair and reasonable, the offeror will not be eligible for award.