



**Department of Energy**  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

MAR 08 2007

Dear Prospective Offerors:

**SUBJECT:** Draft Request for Proposals No. DE-RP09-07SR22505 for the Savannah River Liquid Waste Program

The Savannah River Operations Office (SR) is releasing the Draft Request for Proposals (DRFP) for the Liquid Waste (LW) Program. This DRFP is being issued to promote an understanding of the Government's requirements and provide for industry comment/ feedback.

**Background:**

The Savannah River Site (SRS) is a key Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) industrial complex dedicated to environmental cleanup and reduction of risks through safe stabilization, treatment, and disposition of legacy nuclear material, spent nuclear fuel, and waste. SRS has been managed and operated over its fifty year history by two contractors: E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company from initial construction in 1950 through 1989, and thereafter, by Westinghouse Savannah River Company, now known as Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC), under two separate contracts.

**Acquisition Strategy:**

The current contract is a Management and Operating (M&O) Contract with performance-based features and executed by an integrated team with WSRC as the prime contractor supported by integrated subcontractors (Bechtel Savannah River, Inc., BWXT Savannah River Company, BNG America Savannah River Corporation/Energy Solutions, and CH2 Savannah River Company). The M&O contract encompasses all aspects of site operations, except physical security which is obtained under a separate prime contract to DOE.

Due to the multi-program nature and complexity of SRS operations as well as the Department's desire to increase competition, it was decided to break-out the Government requirements into two major acquisitions: (1) an M&O contract for site operations, including management of the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) and (2) a FAR-based, Cost Plus Award Fee (CPAF), contract for the LW Program.

**Significant Features of the DRFP for the LW Program:**

1. Acquisition Approach: Full and open competition for a FAR-based, CPAF Contract with a single award is anticipated.

2. Fee: Fee limitation is stated in Section B.3 of the DRFP. As provided for in Section H.28, fee will be earned for the Contractor's performance against the criteria established in the Performance Evaluation and Measurement Plan.
3. Statement of Work (SOW): The SOW in the DRFP has been developed based largely on the DOE-approved FY06-FY12 Liquid Waste Disposition Processing Plan (LWDPP), dated May 31, 2006. DOE recognizes that changes affecting this plan have occurred especially in the area of regulatory permitting and requirements. Although the scope, as defined in the SOW and the attached LWDPP, adequately describe the overall LW program, substantive changes to the work sequence and schedule are currently contemplated. The Department intends to update the LWDPP and the SOW prior to release of the Final RFP. While these updates may cause changes in some specific contract requirements, the same level of detailed information will be included in the Final RFP. Accordingly, any comments and/or feedback received from industry on the enclosed DRFP will remain material and relevant after completion of the planned updates.
4. Safety Approach: DOE's primary concern is for the safety of the public, the environment, and its workers. To address this concern, SR's acquisition strategy implements two key safety concepts. The first concept is to ensure a consistent approach to safety. DOE has implemented this concept by requiring the Site M&O Contractor to maintain an over-arching DOE-approved Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) applicable to all site contractors. As part of its overall performance assurance program, the Contractor shall implement and maintain an ISMS for the LW program that is consistent with the ISMS implemented and maintained by the Site M&O contractor. The Site M&O Contractor will be required to work with SR, the LW Contractor, and other site contractors to update the over-arching ISMS as necessary to address changing or updated requirements, and to improve it through the application of lessons-learned and evolving good management safety practices. However, the Site M&O Contractor will not be required to ensure other contractors maintain compliance with the over-arching ISMS program. Compliance assurance will be an SR responsibility.

The second concept is to ensure a system is in place immediately following contract transition which clearly establishes safety expectations and requirements early in the contract period. In consideration of the numerous distractions that may occur while transitioning from one contract to the next, it is imperative that a focus on safety be maintained. To that end, SR is requiring that the incoming LW Contractor "shall implement the existing ISMS program established by the predecessor contractor and documented in its ISMS Description Document."

With this in mind, and the fact that any revision to the ISMS program will occur post contract transition, SR has elected not to request or evaluate the Offeror's safety management approach. However, SR will consider and evaluate the Offeror's historical safety performance as part of the Past Performance evaluation.

5. Basis of Contract Award: DOE intends to award one contract to the responsible Offeror whose proposal is responsive to the solicitation and determined to be the best value to the Government.
6. Workforce Transition, Compensation and Benefits: In Section H.8, the Contractor shall give a first preference in hiring for vacancies in non-managerial positions under this contract to Incumbent Employees as defined in Section H.9 who meet the qualifications for a particular position.

As stated in Section C, Paragraph C.3, the Contractor shall become a sponsor of the Multiple Employer Pension Plan (MEPP) for Incumbent Employees. The Contractor shall also sponsor and be responsible for management and administration of welfare benefit plans for Incumbent Employees. In addition, the Contractor shall sponsor and be responsible for management and administration of the pension and medical benefit plans for Non-Incumbent Employees. The requirements associated with these responsibilities are set forth in Section H.9, Employee Compensation: Pay and Benefits.

Non-Incumbent Employees are new hires, i.e., employees other than Incumbent Employees who are hired by the Contractor after date of award. All Non-Incumbent Employees shall receive a total pay and benefits package that provides for market-based retirement and medical benefit plans that are competitive with the industry from which the Contractor recruits its employees and in accordance with Contract requirements.

7. FAR Clauses: Included in Section I and Section L are two recently issued FAR clauses on Earned Value Management Systems (EVMS) – FAR 52.234-4 and FAR 52.234-3. Potential Offerors are advised that this DRFP requires the development and use of an EVMS and that an Integrated Baseline Review (IBR) of the Contract Performance Baseline will be conducted after contract award.
8. Small Business Subcontracting Plan (Section J, Appendix A): For purposes of potential Offerors' development of the Small Business Subcontracting Plan, the past three years of the current contractor's small business accomplishments for the LW Program are posted on the SRS Acquisition web site for informational purposes.
9. SR Services and Contract Interface Requirements (Section J, Appendix N): This document provides the potential Offerors a listing of services together with the associated general interface obligations that will be made available from other SR Contractors. These services may change from time to time.
10. Evaluation Factors for Award (Section M): Each Offeror's proposal will be adjectivally rated against the following technical criteria: Technical Approach, Key Personnel, Risk Management, Safety Analysis, Relevant Experience, and Past Performance. The technical proposal evaluation criteria are significantly more important than cost and fee. Each

Offeror's proposed cost will be evaluated for reasonableness, realism, and completeness. Cost and fee will not be adjectively rated or scored.

11. Pre-Solicitation Conference and One-on-One Exchanges: DOE plans to conduct a pre-solicitation conference and one-on-one exchanges with industry. These exchanges will be held with interested potential Offerors, industry partners, and the public. DOE has developed questions for the one-on-one exchanges (as shown in the Enclosure to this Notice) and requests that each participant come prepared to answer the questions, and provide feedback on the DRFP at the one-on-one exchanges. DOE will not disclose the information obtained during the one-on-one exchanges, but will make revisions in the final RFP that it considers appropriate. Because a pre-solicitation conference and one-on-one exchanges are to be held, and because the DRFP is being released for public comment, a pre-proposal conference is not planned or contemplated.
12. Responses to Questions and/or Comments on the DRFP: During the conference and to the extent feasible, DOE plans to address questions and/or comments posted to the Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS) and received prior to the pre-solicitation conference. Formal responses will be posted to IIPS and the SR Acquisition Web Site.
13. Site Tour: A Site tour will be conducted during the week of the Pre-Solicitation Conference. DOE may limit the number of participants based on tour logistics. All participants must be pre-registered to participate in the tour. A no-host lunch will be available to tour participants. Pre-registration information can be found at <http://professionals.pr.doe.gov/srs/>.
14. Availability of Unclassified Controlled Information (UCI): Certain information contained on the SR Acquisition Web Site is UCI or Official Use Only (OUO). Any potential Offeror that requests access to the UCI/OUO must be cleared by SR. The instructions for obtaining the clearance are on the SR Acquisition Web Site under the heading "Requesting Sensitive Data Unclassified Controlled Information (UCI)." Potential Offerors are encouraged to begin the clearance process as soon as possible.

**Special Notice:**

Information presented in the DRFP is subject to change. Accordingly, the incurring of expenses, or the formulation of an approach in preparation for the acquisition, based on information presented in the DRFP is solely at the risk of the potential Offeror.

**Solicitation Web Site:**

The DRFP can be found on IIPS at <http://e-center.doe.gov> and the SR Acquisition Web Site at <http://professional.pr.doe.gov/srs/>. All questions and comments regarding the DRFP must be submitted through the "Submit Questions" feature on IIPS. The Government requires that this

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process be used rather than letters, emails, and/or telephone calls. Any responses will be posted on IIPS and the SRS Acquisition Web Site. To provide for the timely release of the final Request for Proposals, all questions on the DRFP should be submitted by **April 30, 2007**.

In order to further the Government's policy of maximizing electronic commerce and making the acquisition process optimally cost effective, electronic media will be the primary method of communication regarding the solicitation. The solicitation, any amendments issued, responses to questions, and other official communications from the Government will be posted on IIPS and the SRS Acquisition Web Site. Additional background information is posted at <http://professional.pr.doe.gov/srs/>. Prospective Offerors are responsible for checking IIPS and the SRS Acquisition Web Site frequently for information, notices, and updates regarding this solicitation.

We look forward to your comments on the DRFP, the upcoming pre-solicitation conference, site tours, and one-on-one exchanges.

Sincerely,



Irma Brown  
Contracting Officer

OCM-07-203

Enclosures:

- (1) One-on-One Questions
- (2) DRFP DE-RP09-07SR22505

**ONE-ON-ONE QUESTIONS  
FOR THE  
LIQUID WASTE DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (DRFP)**

The U. S. Department of Energy is proposing one-on-one exchanges with potential Offerors for purposes of refining the requirements of the final Request for Proposal. The DRFP is provided as a starting point for comments and/or feedback. An early exchange of information may (1) reduce proposal preparation time and cost; (2) reduce the need for solicitation amendments and preclude other delays that disrupt timely completion of the acquisition; and (3) result in better proposals and services.

DOE is providing a list of questions for these one-on-one exchanges. DOE will consider all input, comments, suggestions and questions, but will not respond individually to potential Offerors, nor attribute input received to any particular prospective Offeror. Responses to the information exchanges and written comments are not valid offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract.

**General Questions**

1. Statement of Work – How can DOE further refine the workscope description to provide Offerors a better understanding of the LW requirements and thereby provide for better proposals? Are the contract end state requirements and deliverables sufficiently defined in the DRFP? Is the technical information available on the web site adequate to support proposal preparation? What pertinent information, if any, is missing?
2. Safety Approach – DOE’s approach to implementation of safety requirements and expectations is noted above and in Section C.2.2 of the DRFP. Do you believe SR’s approach is adequately described in Section C? Do you see any issues associated with the outlined approach that could adversely affect safety at SR?
3. Contract Structure – Which, if any, of the requirements contained in the DRFP do you believe are unnecessary or represent potential barriers to successful contract performance? Do the workscope description and contract end state requirements act to constrain innovation in any way?
4. Evaluation Criteria – How may DOE further enhance its approach to evaluate information requested from the Offerors? Are the specific areas to be evaluated and the basis upon which they will be evaluated adequately described?
5. Instructions for Submitting Technical Proposals – Are the limitations for page count reasonable given the requirements of the DRFP? Is 60 days from release of the final RFP sufficient time to prepare and submit a proposal? Are other instructions clear and understandable? If not, identify the specific instruction and the recommended improvement.

Enclosure (1): Ltr Brown to Prospective Offerors  
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6. Instructions for Submitting Cost Proposals – Are the cost proposal instructions sufficient and clear as to what and how information should be submitted? The DRFP includes cost templates for purposes of submitting the cost data. Are the cost templates understandable? Is there a way to improve the cost templates?
7. Site Interface Requirements – Given the site’s acquisition approach of splitting the current incumbent contract and its upcoming small business initiatives, is sufficient information available to adequately address contract interface requirements? Please see the Statement of Work and Section J, Appendix N for further detail.
8. Government Furnished Services and Items – DOE is committed to providing effective support to the contractor throughout the period of contract performance. This commitment is provided as GFS&I in Section H.12 and Section J, Appendix L. Are these commitments described fully in the DRFP?