

**SELECTION STATEMENT
FOR
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SERVICES**

I have been designated as the Source Selection Official (SSO) for the purpose of selecting a contractor for the Information Technology (IT) Support Services Contractor. On August 29, 2001, I met with the Source Evaluation Panel (SEP) appointed to conduct the contract competition. At this meeting, the voting members of the SEP reported their initial consensus evaluation of the proposals received and I subsequently approved a competitive range of the most highly rated proposals. The voting members of the SEP reported their consensus evaluations of the revised proposals from those offerors in the competitive range and submitted a final report to me on October 25, 2001. This document provides my selection decision.

Description of the Acquisition and the Request for Proposals

The Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Operations Office (DOE-ORO) requires the services of a contractor to provide an array of IT support services to assist the DOE-ORO Information Resources Management Division (IRMD) in accomplishing its information management responsibilities. Services are required in the following three areas: (1) Software Engineering and Systems Management; (2) End User Support and Related Administration Support; and (3) Computer/Network Operations.

A time-and-materials, indefinite quantity/indefinite delivery contract will be awarded for a base period of two years with a unilateral option on the part of DOE to extend the contract for three one-year option periods.

Solicitation and Receipt of Proposals

Pursuant to the requirements of FAR Sub-Part 5.2, an advance notice of the acquisition was publicized in the Online Commerce Business Daily on March 9, 2001. The Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on April 5, 2001 to solicit proposals from qualified 8(a)-certified firms to perform IT support services for the DOE-ORO Office in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Three solicitation amendments were also issued. On April 16, 17, and 20, 2001, a total of five site tours were conducted to familiarize prospective offerors with the facility and equipment. Thirty-seven individuals attended the site tours. Proposals were received from 14 firms on May 11, 2001. Evaluation of the written information began on May 14, 2001 and oral presentations by the offerors began on May 23, 2001.

Evaluation Procedures

Section M of the RFP specified the evaluation criteria and the methodology for the award of this contract. This section established the evaluation criteria and subcriteria and indicated the technical and business management criteria would be point scored, and that all evaluation factors other than price, when combined, are of significantly greater importance than price. Price was not weighted nor was it point scored or adjectivally rated; however, the price information was considered in the overall evaluation of the proposals. The proposed price was evaluated to establish reasonableness and appropriateness of the price, cost realism, and the evaluated probable cost to the Government. Provision M.4 states that,

In evaluating offers, the apparent advantages of the technical and business management proposal will be weighed against the evaluated probable cost to the Government to determine if the perceived benefits of better proposals, excluding price considerations, merit the evaluated probable price differentials over other proposals. The proposal selected will be considered to be the overall best value to the Government. If, after evaluation, two or more competing offers are considered essentially technically equal, the evaluated price to the Government may be the deciding factor for award.

This section provided the relative importance of each evaluation criterion and subcriterion based on the relative weights set forth below

Criterion 1. Management Approach	55%
Subcriterion 1(a) Organization and Management	40%
Subcriterion 1(b) Human Resources	15%
Criterion 2. Key Personnel	25%
Criterion 3. Corporate Experience and Past Performance	20%
Subcriterion 3(a) Corporate Experience	15%
Subcriterion 3(b) Past Performance	5%

The RFP also notified offerors that the Government intended to evaluate proposals and award a contract without discussions. Offerors were advised that their initial offers should reflect their best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint. The Government reserved the right to conduct discussions if the Contracting Officer later determined them to be necessary.

The RFP requested both a written proposal and an oral presentation by each offeror. It further stated that the oral presentation would not constitute discussions, as defined by FAR Part 15.306, and would not obligate the Government to determine a competitive range, conduct discussions, or solicit or entertain proposal revisions. Timely proposals were received from 14 firms. After receipt of proposals, each offeror made an oral presentation to the appropriate members of the SEP.

The technical evaluation of the original and revised proposals was the responsibility of the three voting members of the SEP. The SEP evaluated the proposals against the evaluation criteria described in Section M of the RFP. Volume II written and oral presentation information from each offeror was evaluated individually by each voting member and preliminary strengths and weaknesses were developed based upon the evaluation criteria. The SEP received experience and past performance information for each company and for the proposed key personnel from selected available sources. These sources included surveys returned from contract references, personal references for key personnel, and performance information obtained from DOE and National Institutes of Health databases. The SEP considered this information in both its

individual and consensus evaluation. Finally, the SEP finalized consensus strengths and weaknesses for each criterion and a consensus score was established

In accordance with the price criteria, price proposals were evaluated to establish reasonableness and appropriateness of price, cost realism, and the evaluated probable cost to the Government. This was accomplished by assessing the price information submitted by the offerors to determine if: (1) the information provided was based on the requirements specified by the RFP; (2) the proposed price was reasonable based on comparison with the government estimate; (3) the proposed price was based on the technical and business management approach described in the offerors' proposals. In addition, a financial capability analysis was also conducted based on the financial information submitted by the offerors.

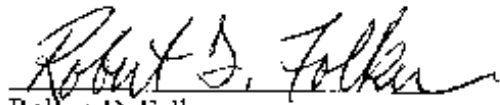
The SEP completed the evaluation process and it was determined that discussions were necessary in order to obtain the best value for the government. As a result, a competitive range of four firms was established and consisted of the most highly rated proposals and was considered to permit efficient competition. Requests for revised proposals in the competitive range were made on August 31, 2001, and revised proposals were due on September 24, 2001. Four revised proposals were received in response to this request. The evaluation of the revised proposals was accomplished using the same methodology used in the evaluation of the original proposals.

Based on information submitted with the proposals and revised proposals, there is little or no likelihood of an organizational conflict of interest with any offeror. With respect to foreign ownership, control or influence, there are no known concerns regarding any of the offerors.

Selection

The proposals, as evaluated by the SEP, demonstrate that all offerors in the competitive range have the capability to perform the Statement of Work successfully, and are considered to be essentially technically equal. I have reviewed the Panel's evaluation report and determined that the NOLA Computer Services, Inc. (NOLA) proposal is the most advantageous to the Government. Since all offers in the competitive range are considered to be essentially technically equal, price is the deciding factor for award. This selection is made because NOLA's proposal has the lowest evaluated probable cost to the Government.

Based on the evaluation conducted by the Panel and my independent review and judgement, the NOLA offer is responsive to the RFP, is the most advantageous to the Government, and provides the best overall value to the Government consistent with the RFP evaluation criteria and basis for award. Accordingly, I select NOLA Computer Services, Inc. as the IT Support Services Contractor for the DOE Oak Ridge Operations Office.



Robert D. Folker
Source Selection Official

10/29/01
Date