

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
1		Page 8	Notify user upon login of the number of suspended transactions and transactions with errors. This implies notifying a single user of their errors. Is there a requirement to notify any other users in a hierarchy in the event the single user does not login or has changed the positions (terminated, retired, transferred, etc)?	This requirement is for the individual user at time of login. One of the standard reports required for the Agency FPDS-NG Administrators is suspended transactions and transactions with errors. This report could include the suggested information.
2		Page 10	Provide any user capability to schedule report creation and delivery. Does this include external users who must pay a fee for the reports? Or is it implying only internal General Services Agency employees? Please provide the security roles that this requirement is referring to.	This requirement refers to ALL users.
3		Page 11	Display pricing in major foreign currencies. Who will define "major currencies"? Has GSA determined a source that will provide the exchange rate?  Is there a preferred or standard billing tool (i.e. PayPal) or method to bill?	The Offeror will define "major currencies" and propose the source for this information. No the Offeror must propose this.
4		Page11	Is data in the current FPDS system to be converted to the new system? Please define the comment "provide access to the data currently stored in FPDS."	The existing FPDS must cease operations when it has completed processing FY03 data. The Offeror will propose how to make the data that is currently stored there available to users.
5		Page 12	The requirement is that every batch file completes in one minute at a rate of 10 transactions per second. This implies batch files are limited to no more than 600 transactions. Is this assumption correct? Or is the requirement only to meet the 10 transactions per second regardless of batch file size?	The requirement is for batch file processing to be INITIATED within one minute.

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6		Page 12	Requirement to process real-time data input transaction in at least one second. Is the assumption this is server processing time exclusive of network transit time correct?	Yes, the requirement is exclusive of network transit time.
7		Page 12	Long running queries referred to the help desk. May we assume the next step is to treat these as special requests being completed by the system maintenance/support team?	The Offeror has broad discretion in meeting this requirement.
8		Page 12	Prepare requests for Congress, GAO and other entities as requested. Does GSA have a preference on how these should be priced in our proposal? On a per request time and materials or by FTE support?	Congress, GAO, and similar investigative agencies will not be charged for reports. GSA does not have a preference regarding any other users, however, by statute, the "raw" data must be made available to requesters on a cost recovery basis.
9		Appendix J1	Is the Data Element Dictionary maintained in an application or database or is it only in MS Word documents as provided?	It is stored in a set of Rational tools.
10			How many years of data are required to be available on-line (at 10 to 13M transactions per year)?	All data is required to be available for query at all times. There is currently no authorization to remove any data from the universe of query-able data.
11			What are the parameters for "return on-line standard reports in 10 seconds" Some standard reports could access an entire agency's data?	Yes, a report could access the entire database. The standard reports listed in the RFP do, in fact, require this at least some of the time.

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12		Page 4	How many interfaces to agency systems need to be supported? 60 Executive agencies are referenced on page 4. Should we assume currently 60 interfaces need to be planned for?	FPDS-NG is required to have a single, open-standards based interface. In addition, it is required to provide an interoperability layer to ease the transition to the standard interface. There are approximately 60 agencies. Each may have more than one system that needs to interoperate with FPDS-NG. The contractor will provide the tools and standards to permit the agencies to interoperate, and may provide support services beyond the basic requirements of FPDS-NG, if the agencies wish to pay for the services. See J11, eGov Architectural Requirements, Integration Layer, and Section B, CLIN 0002 for support to agencies.
13			Are there any Enterprise Software Licenses that are currently available to GSA that potentially could reduce the cost of the proposed solution to the government?	No.
14		Page 350	Is it correct that a contractor who has not received net awards of negotiated prime contracts and subcontracts subject to CAS totaling \$50M or more in the cost accounting period immediately preceding the period in which this proposal was submitted can be given a Certificate of Monetary exemption?	The Offeror determines whether his company falls within the guidelines for the exemption and certifies this to the Government. GSA does not "grant" a Certificate of Monetary exemption.
15			Our understanding of Business Approach 4 is that the contractor acquires and bears the cost of the H/W and S/W necessary for FPDS-NG, but the operating costs are borne by the GSA Data Center. Is that correct?	Yes, under this approach the contractor delivers a fully functional system (including any HW and SW). The Government is then responsible for operating and maintaining the system. Defects will be addressed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Contract.E17

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16		In Section C, paragraph E, page 10)	<p>There is a requirement for "state-of-the-art data analysis technology", request the Government prioritize the standard features noted below in regards to OLAP and/or data mining features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Consensus Modeling</li> <li>b. Polynomial Network Modeling</li> <li>c. Contributory Modeling</li> <li>d. Decision Trees</li> <li>e. Data Visualization</li> <li>f. Radial Basis Functions</li> <li>g. Nearest Neighbor</li> <li>h. Multi-layer Perceptions</li> <li>i. Generalized Linear Modeling</li> <li>j. Time Series</li> <li>k. Sequential Discovery</li> <li>l. Rule Induction</li> <li>m. Kohonen</li> <li>n. Result Reporting</li> <li>o. Other _____</li> </ul>	Only the Offeror can determine this, as appropriate for his solution.
17		In Section C, Paragraph E, page 10 and 11	There is a requirement for an e-commerce component. Please clarify and explain the process for capturing, distributing and use of the fees collected for public information and reports.	Use of fees from reports may be an approach. If the Offeror proposes the collection of fees, his proposal must address the process he will use for capturing, distribution, and use of fees.
18			Is it the Government's intention for the contractor to collect public fees, and off-set this associated cost proposal? If so, what were the proceeds collected from public sale of information/reports for the last 3 years?	The Government has no preference with respect to the pricing strategy the Offeror proposes. FPDC collects about \$60,000 per year.

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19			In the event of a total failure of the primary facility, how often (timeframe) would you prefer the live database be replicated for fail-over?	The Government has no specific requirement for replication for fail-over. The Government has requirements that the data be secure and available, and it is the Offeror's responsibility to choose the methods that meet the Government's requirements.
20		Illustration J9-IAE	Illustration J9-IAE is illegible. Please post a legible electronic copy.	Another copy will be posted.
21			Will the Government provide an extension to the due date for the proposal until Jan 6?	An extension will not be granted.
22		Section B.1	Section B.1 states 'The anticipated period of performance is a base period of 3 years with 2 one year options plus a potential for earning up to 5 award term years. The total term of the contract will not exceed 8 years. The numbers, however, appear to add up to 10 years. Please provide clarification.	There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an incentive or award plan. See F.2 also.

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23		Section B.1	Section B.1 states 'For cost incentives, the Government anticipates a share ratio of 60/40 (Government/Contractor), for both cost overruns and underruns, whereby the selected vendor would share in cost savings and cost overruns 40 percent.' It appears that the concept of sharing in incentives is inconsistent with our understanding of incentives. Please provide clarification regarding how you anticipate the incentives being implemented.	See FAR part 16.403, Fixed Price Incentive Contracts. The share ratio applies to the cost incentive only; the cost incentive will be based on the negotiated final cost. The performance incentives are not subject to the share ratio; they are managed in accordance with the negotiated performance incentive plan.
24		Section H.11	Section H.11 states 'the total amount of funds for this effort is \$5.6 million.' Is that for all activities (i.e., development, implementation, operations, maintenance, marketing) across the base period, or the base period plus option years, or the base period plus option years plus award years?	The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).
25			Will there be additional funding for system operations (e.g., help desk) and maintenance (e.g., enhancements and data reporting formats) during the 5 award years?	Yes

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26		Page 6/ Browsers	Browsers: On page 6 of the RFP the minimum supported browser specified are IE 4.0, Netscape navigator 4.0 etc. while on page 236 (J11), the browser specification is for IE 5.5 or Netscape Navigator 6.x etc. It appears that the two requirements are in conflict. Can we assume that requirements on page 236 are correct?	The requirement on page 6 is revised. The statement on page 236 is the minimum requirement, but FPDS-NG has a more stringent requirement.
27		Budget	Budget: The Government's contract budget for development, implementation, cost incentives, and performance incentives is \$5.6 million. Does this apply to base period of three years, or only first year through implementation?	These are the funds for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance in the base period.
28		Internet Access	Internet Access: What is the WAN bandwidth capacity available at GSA computer facility? If our solution involves deploying equipment at GSA facility, can we assume that sufficient bandwidth will be available for internet access for system users? Do we need to allow for the internet service provider cost for additional T-1 facility?	GSA currently has three 45 MB connections that are geographically dispersed and is considering further upgrades.  If FPDS-NG is placed in GSA's computer center, then GSA will provide the required communications capabilities.

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29		Paragraph B.1	Paragraph B.1 lists the period of performance as 3 Base years, plus two One-Year Options; plus 5 Award Term Years (period not to exceed 8 years). Paragraph H.11 indicates that the Total Price cannot exceed \$5.6 million. A "reasonable person" can interpret this to mean \$5.6 million over 3, 5 or eight years. The government contracting officer needs to clarify the number of years that the price ceiling applies to. For example; paragraph H.11 could be reworded to read "The total amount of funds available, for the Base Years of this effort, is \$5.6 million."	The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).
30		Section I (and paragraph H.11)	The contract type is listed in paragraph B1 as "Fixed-Price Incentive". Section I (and paragraph H.11) read as if the contract type were "Cost Plus Incentive or Award Fee". Under a true Fixed Price contract the vendor performs the work specified and makes deliveries and the government makes progress payments based upon these with out visibility into the vendor's costs. The government appears to want to make "Cost" part of the Incentive; in which case the government should consider changing the contract type to a "Cost Plus Incentive Fee" contract with a specified annual and total period of performance ceilings.	H.11 will be amended to remove the word "cost." However, a Fixed Price Incentive contract must include an incentive on cost. Under section L.9.2.1, the Offeror may propose an alternative contract type.

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31			The RFP indicates that the contractor will have about 7- 8 months to produce an operational system. Will the delivery date be changed if the government does not meet it's projected award date.	The delivery schedule is one of many items that may be negotiated.
32		RFP Section H.11 Incentives	RFP Section H.11 Incentives – states the total funds available for this effort is \$5.6M. In Section M.2.3.2, – Price, the second paragraph states that offers in excess of \$5.6M for development and implementation are unacceptable. Please clarify whether or not \$5.6M is just for the base period, or for the full contract term.	The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).
33			What are the mechanics of the agencies current FTP batch file submissions?	The agencies e-mail or ftp the file specified in the FPDS Reporting Manual (see the FPDC.GOV web site).
34			What security procedures are currently used to protect data submitted via FTP?	There is person-to-person contact in accordance with FPDC operating procedures to verify that data has been received.
35			Does the Government want to change this security approach to FTP file submission in FPDS-NG?	The requirements are as stated in Section C.2.1.J) Security Objectives

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36			How do agencies currently transmit files to the FPDS, and how does FPDS currently authenticate those files? Will the FPDS-NG be required to use this existing mechanism?	The agencies e-mail or ftp the file specified in the FPDS Reporting Manual (see the FPDC.GOV web site). There is person-to-person contact in accordance with FPDC operating procedures to verify that data has been received. The FPDS-NG requirements are as stated in Section C.2.1.J) Security Objectives
37		Section C.2.1 (G)	"The current FPDS may continue operation for up to 6 months..." Does the Government expect the winner of FPDS-NG to operate any part of the existing system during this 6 month period?	The Offeror may propose to assume responsibility for operation and maintenance of the current FPDS during the phase-out period as part of his solution.
38			The contractor is expected to convert the existing data FDPS-NG. Please clarify, does the Government expect this conversion effort to include any steps to improve the quality of the existing data and/or fill in any missing data items?	The requirement is that the data be available for query. The Offeror must propose a quality assurance program that results in continuous improvement in FPDS-NG. The Government does not require that "new" data elements required by FPDS-NG be added to the "old" data.
39			GSA has a new facility that may house FPDS-NG. Is this facility operated by a group under GSA other than the group responsible for FPDS-NG? If so, does this facility group charge the FPDS-NG group for use of the facility and how much?	The facility is operated by the GSA CIO. Costs of operating the facility and hosting systems such as FPDS-NG are distributed across headquarters activities. The facility cost is distributed by activity or headquarters organization, not by system. Therefore, the cost to host FPDS-NG at the Government facility is not identified.
40		L.8 Proposal Format and Submission instructions	Please clarify if, "Front matter (title pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, acronym lists, and glossaries)..." will they be counted against the 75 page limitation?	Volume I is limited to 75 pages for all material submitted, including "front matter."

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41			<p>Is the total value of the contract \$5.6 million include software and services for a 3 year period?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt; Software licenses</li> <li>&lt; Services etc.</li> <li>&lt; Maintenance and Technical Support</li> </ul>	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p>
42			<p>Does this amount encompass all software, implementation, support and maintenance services 63 agencies utilizing the FPDS?</p>	<p>These are the funds for development and implementation up to and including acceptance in the base period. For solutions other than Business Approach 4, Government owned and operated, the Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance costs (CLIN 0003). Support for other agencies is not included in these; such support may be provided under C.2.2, Option for Adapting/Modifying Individual Agency Contract Writing/Feeder Systems.</p>

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43			<p>What eProcurement and contract management systems have been selected, implemented and will be utilized as part of this initiative?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt; Vendor Name?</li> <li>&lt; Number of procurement and contract people utilizing today</li> <li>&lt; Separate budgeted amounts associated with these current initiatives?</li> </ul>	<p>This project does not select agency systems. Agencies have selected (and will continue to select) systems to meet their needs. Their needs include reporting data to FPDS-NG. Any information regarding agency systems must be requested from each agency.</p>
44			<p>What specific additional software needs do you anticipate at this time?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&lt; Type of solution</li> <li>&lt; Budgets</li> </ul>	<p>The RFP specifies the Government's requirements and the available funding to meet them.</p>
45			<p>Is there a dedicated portion of the contract that requires minority certified and/or designated small business certification?</p>	<p>Section L.9.3.4 contains small business subcontracting goals.</p>
46			<p>Who designed the current system?</p>	<p>The current system was designed by and is being operated and maintained by GSA in-house staff.</p>

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47			Can you clarify the total value of the contract and if any of the money is set aside for software enhancements or strictly services?	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p>
48			Is the designated \$5.6 million incentive the total fixed price/cost to the contractor?	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p>

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49			I would like to find out what the intended duration is for maximum of the 5.6 million on the GSA FPDS RFP. Is 5.6 million per year, over the 3 year initial term, 5 year contract life, or 8 year extended?	The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).
50		Section D, Page 9	Statement: Section D, Page 9: "a single interface (that is, a single format for each data transfer requirement)" Question: Please list the data transfer requirements so we can determine the number of separate formats required. Does this mean one interface supporting multiple transaction types (i.e. Indefinite Delivery Vehicle, Award, Modification, Change, etc.) or does it mean one interface supporting for each delivery method (i.e. one batch interface and one machine to machine interface) or does it mean multiple batch file formats (say, for different Agencies).	The data transfer requirements for batch data submissions are specified in the Batch File specification, attachment J10. The data transfer requirements for FPDS-NG responses in the batch environment are to be proposed by the Offeror.

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51		Section D, Page 9	<p>Statement: Section D, Page 9: "until such time as the government authorizes the removal of a specific batch requirement from FPDS-NG."</p> <p>Is there any expectation that new batch requirements will be added?</p>	<p>Not all the Federal agencies reporting to FPDS-NG will have machine-to-machine capability when FPDS-NG becomes operational. As the federal agencies reporting to FPDS-NG develop machine-to-machine capability, batch reporting capability will be phased out. New batch requirements are not anticipated.</p>
52		Section D, Page 9	<p>"Provide automated standard processes to return receipts and error messages to agencies that submit procurement data. Agencies will be able to choose from among the standard processes."</p> <p>How many choices are required? Are there any must-have options?</p>	<p>The Government requires the Offeror to propose one or more automated, batch methods for returning receipts or error messages. The Government has no "must have" solutions. Agencies may elect to use any of the methods proposed (including the non-batch methods).</p>

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53		Section H.11, Page 31	<p>"The total amount of funds for this effort is \$5.6 million.Does this mean (1) 3 year base period, (2) 3 year base period plus 2 one year options, or (3) 3 year base period plus 2 options years plus 5 annual award term periods? Please clarify "effort is \$5.6 million" to period of performance.</p>	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p> <p>There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an</p>

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54		Reference Section F "Help Desk and End User Support"	Can the Government provide historical/expected traffic rates for the Help Desk?	The current FPDC does not provide help desk support, therefore, there is no historical data available. There is no data on the expected traffic for help desk support. See Section C.2.1, H Performance Objectives for expected user population.
55		Reference Attachment J14 "Existing FPDS Information"	Is the Government's expectation that the database for FPDS-NG will have the same data elements and logical design as the existing FPDS database?	Attachment J1 is the Data Dictionary for FPDS-NG. There are new data elements in this dictionary that are not currently being collected. The Offeror is expected to design the database to meet all requirements.
56		Reference Attachment J14 "Existing FPDS Information"	Will the Government's provide personnel to answer questions regarding the database design?	Included herein are the Government's responses to all questions received.
57		Reference Section G "Transition"	Can the Government provide details on how cutover is envisioned i.e. would the existing FPDS database continue to be the repository for FPDS-NG, or would it be logically copied in it's entirety to a new FPDS-NG database, or would the new FPDS-NG database start out empty, receiving all new input, while the old database keeps going until everything in it becomes inactive?	The Government's requirement is that all data is required to be available for query at all times. The process or method the Offeror chooses to meet this requirement is at his discretion. The operation of the current FPDS is expected to continue for 6 months to continue collecting and processing FY03 data. The Offeror may propose to assume responsibility for FPDS in his transition strategy. There is currently no authorization to remove any data from the universe of query-able data.
58		Reference Section G "Transition"	Does the Government have specific expectations regarding configuration management, change control, quality assurance, demonstration/validation etc. or are we open to specifying these in our upcoming proposal?	Yes, the Offeror proposes configuration management, change control, quality assurance, etc. in accordance with his proposed solution.

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59		Page 6, Page 211 and Page 236	<p>On Page 6 you state that the interface shall support commonly used browsers (such as Netscape 4.0, Internet Explorer 4.0, and Opera 5.0) with no active components of any kind (including plug-ins, JavaScript, Java applets or Scripting Support), or the use of persistent cookies.</p> <p>On page 211, you reiterate this requirement stating that the FPDS-NG browser-based interface is for solid reliability with a broad array of browsers rather than flashy techniques.</p> <p>On Page 236 you repeat most of the requirements above but then allow for Java Applets and also offer a conflicting requirement on Minimum Browser requirements.</p>	The requirement on page 6 is revised. The statement on page 236 is the minimum requirement, but FPDS-NG has a more stringent requirement. There is no conflict with the statement on page 211.
60			Could you please clarify these conflicting statements?	See 59.
61			Can you please state the minimum browser requirements?	The requirement on page 6 is revised. The statement on page 236 is the minimum requirement, but FPDS-NG has a more stringent requirement.
62			Reiterate that you want all business logic contained in server side components/beans/servlets that then render the necessary HTML.	The requirement at C.2.1.A), 2nd paragraph on page 6, is the Government's requirement.
63			Reiterate that you will not allow any scripting such as ASP.NET or PHP within the pages	The requirement at C.2.1.B), 2nd paragraph, is the Government's requirement.
64			Is basic JavaScript for standard page navigation allowed?	The requirement at C.2.1.B), 2nd paragraph, is the Government's requirement.

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65			If Java applets are the only plug-in being allowed, are you even considering the .Net environment that is referenced in the RFP?	The requirement at C.2.1.B), 2nd paragraph, is the Government's requirement.
66			Are there any requirements to allow access to the OLAP information internally via commonly used products such as Excel?	The Government's only requirement for spreadsheet use is at C.2.1.E), 5th paragraph.
67			<p>The RFP states in section (B) that there is one Base year and two option years as well as five additional award years.</p> <p>IS the contract funding based on the base year plus the two option years and not to exceed 5.6MIL for those three years.</p>	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p> <p>There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an incentive or award plan. See F.2 also.</p>

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68			Sect (M) states that 5.6 is for Dev/Impl/cost incentives but does not refer to term years or Sustainment of services.	The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).
69		GENERAL	Is there an existing data model for the FPDS-NG information repository or is this solution dependent ?	The logical model for contracts data is provided as Attachment J3. The Offeror may propose any data model for the repository and is therefore solution dependent.
70		GENERAL	Will the Contractor be responsible to conform to Government Business Processes for Business Approaches which allow Contractor Owned and Operated services ?	The Offeror will be responsible for conforming to the terms and conditions of the solicitation and any resulting contract.
71		GENERAL	Will the contractor be held Liable for stolen or damaged equipment held at contractor site ? This will require special insurance policies.	The Government does not anticipate providing any Government owned property for use at a Contractor Facility. Should there be any Government Furnished Property, the Contractor's responsibility will be governed by the appropriate Government Property Clause, see FAR part 45.
72		GENERAL	Business Approach 2 – Does the government own the hardware?	No. The provision will be clarified.

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73		GENERAL	Please provide a clarification of the Business Approach options which use the expression "Contractor Owned" for the services required by this solicitation ?	For Business Approach 1, the Government owns only the raw data transferred from FPDS or from other Government systems. All facilities, hardware, software, and services are owned, provided, and maintained by the Contractor.
74		GENERAL	Business Approach 3 indicates that the Contractor owns the hardware. Is this correct, since the hardware is located at a Government facility?	This is correct.
75			When is the anticipated award date?	The anticipated award date is January 2003.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
76			Does the 5.6 million dollar contract cap cover the first year, three years, or the total eight year life of the contract?	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p> <p>There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an incentive or award plan. See F.2 also.</p>

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
77		Page 2, Section B2. Schedule	<p>The Government requires the system/service be able to accept and validate data on Oct 1, 2003.</p> <p>A) Does this include all three data sources – machine to machine, batch, and key entry over the web?</p> <p>B) What are the delivery dates for each of the deliverables listed on pages 21 and 22 (F.4)</p>	<p>A) Yes all three methods must be provided and supported.</p> <p>B) Delivery dates will be negotiated based on the Offeror's development and implementation schedule.</p>
78		Page 3, CLIN 0002	Does GSA anticipate these to be time and materials task orders?	The requirement as stated (C.2.2) gives the Offeror the flexibility to propose a methodology and pricing arrangement for this CLIN.
79		Attachment J11 – Integration Layer	“The contractor shall coordinate with external system owners to develop Integration Agreements for each interfacing system.”. Can you clarify the expectations of this requirement. Is this within scope of CLIN1 or CLIN2?	<p>The eGov Architectural Requirements attachment requires the Contractor to document all of the technical and business aspects of creating and using an interface.</p> <p>Integration agreements are within the scope of CLIN 0001.</p>
80		Page 6, paragraph 3	<p>“The data containing errors must be available for correction ...”</p> <p>Is the intent that the machine to machine and batch files be available for correction by key entry through a web interface or that the submitter be able to reload corrected data?</p>	The intent is that the data be available for correction and analysis (see revision).

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
81		Page 6, paragraph 5	<p>“Provide the capability for the FPDS-NG System Administrator to override FPDS-NG validation rules upon challenge of an error notice.” To meet many of the validation rules and the processing speed requirements, various methods such as application code, database structure or constraints must be employed.</p> <p>A. Is it permissible for the FPDS-NG System Administrator to notify the contractor that a validation rule has changed and source code or database must be modified?</p> <p>B. Will the requirement be met if the change is completed within 30 days?</p>	<p>The Offeror's change control plan must include a method for accomplishing this including timeframes.</p>
82		Page 9, Section C, Part C) Machine to Machine Interface, Paragraphs 2 and 3.	<p>Is this section referring to the J2EE Connector Architecture?</p> <p>Please provide an explanation of the intent of the last paragraph. “Push changes ...minimal human intervention...”</p>	<p>These paragraphs are not referring to any particular architecture.</p> <p>The last paragraph expresses a need for an efficient way to disseminate change to agency end user systems. The Government is seeking solutions that reduce the time frame from several months for changes to be incorporated Government-wide.</p>

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
83		Pages 10 – 11, Section C, Part E) Reporting and Querying	<p>In reference to the purchase of reports by users -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the agency be selling reports to other agencies or will all reports be available at no cost to all US government entities?</li> <li>2. Will entities other than the US Government (such as educational institutions) be able to request reports at no cost?</li> <li>3. Is it acceptable that the contractor collects and process payment for the reports for a fee and then remits the remaining funds to the agency?</li> <li>4. Because the contractor may be required to add additional infrastructure to accommodate an unknown level of reporting activity, is the agency willing to entertain a profit sharing arrangement with respect to fees collected from the reporting activity?</li> </ol>	<p>The Government envisions that any reporting service provided as a "self service" on-line report or query will be provided without charge.</p> <p>The Contractor may propose a method for recouping the cost of additional reporting services. Certain users including Congress, GAO, or investigation bodies are exempt from any payment requirement.</p> <p>By statute, the "raw" data must be made available to requestors on a "cost recovery" basis.</p> <p>With respect to questions 3 and 4, the Government will consider all proposed alternative solutions.</p>
84		Page 11, Section C, Part F) Help Desk and End User Support	<p>"Provide training to users after FPDS-NG is deployed (e.g., Computer Based Training, or tutorial and searchable on-line user manual). Provide a training plan for agency administrators as FPDS-NG is deployed." Does the agency anticipate the need for classroom training? If classroom training is required, what is the anticipated number classes and the number of students per class? If classroom training is required, is the cost for travel, materials, and facilities included in the 5.6 million dollar contract cap?</p>	<p>The Government does not have a specific requirement for classroom training. There is a requirement for a training plan for agency administrators. The cost for training materials and initial training for approximately 120 agency administrators must be included in the development, implementation, and acceptance phase.</p>

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
85		Page 11, Section C, Part G) Transition	<p>“The current FPDS may continue operations for up to 6 months to complete processing of transactions from prior to October 1, 2003.”</p> <p>A) Will the agency (or the current contractor) continue to operate the existing FPDS system or will the operation of the system fall under the new FPDS-NG contract?</p> <p>B) If the operation of the existing FPDS system falls under the new FPDS-NG contract, will the new contractor have the option of moving the hardware from the current 7th and D, SW location to the new FPDS-NG location (GSA data center or contractor provided data center)?</p>	<p>The Government anticipates it will continue to operate the current FPDS during this period. The Offeror may propose to assume responsibility for operation and maintenance of the current FPDS during the phase-out period as part of his solution.</p> <p>The Offeror may propose any alternatives.</p>
86		Page 13, Section C, Part I) Management and Administration Objectives	<p>“Develop a marketing plan to promote the FPDS-NG and to disseminate info to agencies and the public on FPDS-NG products and services.” Will the contractor be required to implement this plan? If the contractor is required to implement this plan, how will this be funded?</p>	<p>The Contractor will be required to implement his approved plan.</p> <p>Cost for the development and implementing this plan must be included in the cost proposal.</p>
87		Page 14, Section C, Part J) Security Objectives –g) FPDS-NG System Administrator	<p>What is the intent of this security role? What will this person or group in this security role modify?</p>	<p>The intent of this section is to define user access rights in order to maintain control and oversight of system security. The roles and responsibilities for the FPDS-NG System Administrator should be defined in the proposal.</p>

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
88		Page 15, Section C, Part K. Interoperability	<p>The following interoperability requirements are included in the base contract:                      CCR/Business Partner Network                      Automatic Contract Writing System                      eCatalog/GWAC Web Site”</p> <p>A) What level of interoperability is required?                      B) What feature sets are required?                      C) Are there system interface specifications available?</p>	<p>1) CCR/Business Partner Network is a source of data. The primary purpose of the interoperability is to receive data from CCR that are used to validate data submitted by Automatic Contract Writing Systems. The interface specification is on the CCR.gov web site.</p> <p>2) Interoperability with Automatic Contract Writing Systems shall be defined by the Offeror. The primary purpose of the interoperability is to collect data directly from these contract writing systems. The interface specification is a contract deliverable.</p> <p>3) The eCatalog/GWAC web site will be a recipient of FPDS-NG data. Interoperability with the eCatalog/GWAC web site will be defined by the developers of that site. The purpose of the interoperability is to provide data for use by that site. The interface specification will be provided once finalized.</p>
89		Page 29, Item H10	<p>In no event shall the final negotiated price for any award term exceed the ceiling price established in Section B of this contract for that period.” Section B does not include any contract ceiling values.</p>	<p>The total funding for development and implementation including acceptance and incentives on the development phase is \$5.6 million. The Offeror must propose the ceiling price.</p>

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
90		Page 220, Web Services	Is there an update to this section? Current material doesn't appear correct.	The purpose of attachment J8 is correct for describing the functionality that is envisioned. The Offeror shall propose appropriate solutions to achieve this functionality.
91		Page 147 J2, Use Case Summaries	Are there additional details available for the Use Cases.?	The purpose of Attachment J2 is to describe the information required for different types of transactions. The existing attachment is not intended to be a specification. The selected contractor must define how this data is processed and stored.
92		Page 6 Section C Paragraph B	Section C Paragraph B states that the Web-based interfaces shall support Netscape 4.0, Internet Explorer 4.0 and Opera 5.0 as examples. However, attachment J11 on page 236 indicates that the GSA eGov Architectural requirements are for Internet Explorer version 5.5 or later and Netscape Navigator 6.x or later. Which is the preferred target browser level for the FPDS-NG?	The requirement on page 6 is revised. The statement on page 236 is the minimum requirement, but FPDS-NG has a more stringent requirement.
93		Page 12 Section C Paragraph I	Section C Paragraph I indicates that there are multiple "Federal Procurement Data Centers." Page 331 Section J15 appears to indicate only a single location of Federal Procurement Data Center. Are there multiple data centers or only one? Please advise on the location and size of the data centers.	There is only one Federal Procurement Data Center, currently located at 7th and D street, S.W., Washington, DC. It is anticipated FPDC will be moved to 1800 F St., NW, Washington, DC, within 30 to 60 days. Information about the current FPDS is in Attachment J14.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
94		Section B1. Contract Type	The RFP states, <i>"The anticipated period of performance is a base period of 3 years with 2 one year options plus a potential for earning up to 5 award term years. The total term of the contract will not exceed 8 years."</i> Please clarify the anticipated Period of Performance (POP): <b>3</b> years for the base period <b>with 2</b> one-year options plus <b>5</b> award term years which equates to a totals of <u>10</u> years or is it 3 years for the base period <b>which includes 1</b> year plus <b>2</b> one-year options plus <b>5</b> award term years which equates to a total of <u>8</u> years?	There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an incentive or award plan. See F.2 also.
95			The government anticipates awarding a fixed-fee incentive type contract. We assume the contract will be consistent with FAR Part 16.403-1, Fixed-price incentive contracts, in which the government and contractor establish target costs and profit, a price ceiling and an adjustment formula as part of negotiations. Please confirm and/or clarify.	If the Government chooses to award a Fixed Price Incentive contract, then the provisions of FAR Part 16.403-1 will apply.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
96		Section B1. Contract Type and H.10 Award Term Provision	Please clarify whether or not the Award Term Provisions found in Section H.10 applies only to the 5 award-term years mentioned in Section B1. If so, on what basis will the contractor be awarded the 2 one-year options?	There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an incentive or award plan. See F.2 also.
97			Are award terms earned based on yearly performance under each year of the basic term? In other words, will the contractor be awarded an award term after the first year of the base period, assuming excellent performance in that year? The RFP states "Within 60 days after the end of the <u>base period</u> , if the TDO determines that an award term is to be awarded, the contract will be modified...". Does the government mean <u>base year</u> instead of <u>base period</u> ?	Yes, the Contractor may earn an award term after the first year. This provision has been revised to clarify that the intent is to evaluate performance within 60 days following the end of the <u>evaluated</u> period, not the base period.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
98		Section C.2.1. (B) 5. [Page 6]	Most query tool vendors, who advertise an HTML only interface, use Dynamic HTML (DHTML), in addition to HTML. In GSA's view, does DHTML meet the requirement that "Web-based interfaces shall support commonly used browsers (such as Netscape 4.0, Internet Explorer 4.0, and Opera 5.0) without active components of any kind (including plug-ins, JavaScript, java applets, or scripting support), or use of persistent cookies."	Prior to proposal evaluations, the Government will not assess or comment on any technology, tool, or application related to this solicitation. The requirements and any associated constraints are clearly stated in the RFP.
99		Page 6	The RFP states, "Web-based interfaces shall support commonly used browsers (such as Netscape 4.0, Internet Explorer 4.0, and Opera 5.0)". However, Attachment J11, eGov Architectural Requirements, states that a browser-based user interface must be compatible with "Microsoft Internet Explorer version 5.5 or later and with Netscape Navigator version 6.x or later". What are the specific browser and versions that must be supported for FPDS-NG? Will the FPDS-NG program have a methodology for phasing out support of old browser versions?	<p>The statement on page 236 is the minimum requirement, but FPDS-NG has a more stringent requirement.</p> <p>The requirement in Section C has been revised.</p> <p>The Offeror must propose a set of standards that will be used in designing the browser-based interfaces and the testing that will be conducted to ensure the interfaces are functional in a broad range of browsers.</p> <p>Changing the HTML standard that is used would be a result of the Government's change control process.</p>
100		[Page 7]	For the requirement listed: What is included in "other appropriate information"? "Provide welcome screen(s) that include information from registered users profile and other appropriate information."	The solicitation has been revised to place this functionality in the group of user friendliness features. The list provided is by no means all inclusive.

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No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
101		Page 7	For the requirement listed: When are codes, abbreviations, and acronyms appropriate, since the requirements states, "normally"? What are the exceptions? "Normally, show plain language text instead of codes, abbreviations, or acronyms..."	In general, plain language should be used. In cases where use of plain language is unworkable, the awardee must ensure that any abbreviations or acronyms used are explained.
102		Page 7	The RFP states "FPDS-NG data entry screens will be standardized. However, dynamic customization may be required to support unique agency requirements and data variations. The intent is that, for approved variations in the data (defined in the data dictionary), the user will see only appropriate data entry fields and appropriate data values in lists." Are these fields currently defined in Attachment J1. If not, is it the intent of the Government to have these defined in the scope of the initial solution development and deployed by October 1, 2003 for all Agencies? What is the envisioned process on the Government side for these variations to be approved?	The Use Case Summaries, Attachment J2, define what data is required for each type of transaction. The Government requires, as a minimum, that the data requested in the browser-based direct key entry system will be adapted based on that matrix. In addition, there are situations where data entered at one point will change the data that appears subsequently; for example, if a procurement is competitive (response for Data Dictionary item 10A) then the only responses possible are for Competitive Procedures (Data Dictionary item 10B), so Reason Not Competed (Data Dictionary item 10C) should not appear.
103		Page 8	What is meant by "real-time" in the following requirement? "Return error messages real-time and allow the user to make corrections within the same session. Allow user to exit without making corrections." For example, does it mean at the moment they enter an incorrect value, or when they hit a button to submit a set of data? If the former, we suggest that GSA strike this requirement, since satisfying it would require active components, which have been disallowed by another requirement.	The Government means when the data are submitted.

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No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
104		Section C.2.1. (C) Page 9	The RFP states that the solution must "Provide 'web services' to support contract writing and e-commerce systems. See attachment J8." Attachment J8 lists 11 potential "services" Are these required web services to be implemented in the scope of CLIN 001 or do these represent examples of potential web services? Does CLIN 001 include just the capability to provide web services or does it include a defined set of web services to be built? If so, can the government provide an additional level of detail on those services?	The purpose of attachment J8 is correct for describing the functionality that is envisioned. The Offeror shall propose appropriate solutions to achieve this functionality. The Offeror shall define the set of web services required to implement the proposed solution within the scope of CLIN 0001.
105		Page 9, Section C, Part C) Machine to Machine Interface, Paragraphs 2 and 3.	The RFP states "The contractor will define a methodology that allows FPDS-NG to 'push' changes to agency procurement systems (or agency FPDS-NG administrators) and enables agencies to incorporate the changes with minimal human intervention. Agencies must be able to change the data that is collected or to change the validation rules applied to data within 30 days following approval of the change by the government change control board." Can the government elaborate on their vision to "push" changes to agency procurement systems and incorporate changes with minimal human intervention? Is the implementation of the contractor proposed methodology included in the scope of CLIN 001?	The Government is seeking a solution for the problem that changes, once approved by the change control board, can not be implemented timely Government-wide. The Government's objective is to implement change rapidly by automating as much of the process as possible.  Implementation is within the scope of CLIN 0001.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
106		Page 9	The RFP requires that the batch solution “maintain a single interface (that is, a single format for each data transfer requirement)”. Additionally, Attachment J10 identifies Batch File Formats. Are the batch file formats identified in Attachment J10 the required “single interfaces” or are these examples? Do the batch formats identify the full list of required transactions? Does J10 represent the current batch format in use between agency systems and FPDS for FY 03?	<p>The data transfer requirements for batch data submissions are specified in the Batch File specification, attachment J10. The data transfer requirements for FPDS-NG responses in the batch environment are to be proposed by the Offeror.</p> <p>The file format in J10 is for FY 04.</p>
107		Section C.2.1. (D) 14. Page 9	How are batch files transmitted to FPDS now? Is there any flexibility to the transmission method such that we may impose security requirements to protect the system and/or data?	The agencies e-mail or ftp the file specified in the FPDS Reporting Manual (see the FPDC.GOV web site). The Offeror is not limited by the existing methods.
108		Section C.2.1. (E) 15. Page 10	The RFP states “Provide the capability to include data from other systems when such systems have exposed the data for query.” Does the government envision a single query processing data from FPDS-NG and external systems? Can the government define what capabilities of an external system meet the definition of exposing the data for query?	The Government envisions a capability where a query on FPDS-NG can pull in data from other systems. There are currently open standards technologies that permit this.
109		Page 10	The RFP states, “Provide a method for identifying and producing standard reports similar to those listed in Attachment J5.” Does J5 represent the list of required standard reports?	The Government expects that the list of Standard Reports will change frequently based on user needs. The list in Attachment J5 is a starting point.

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No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
110		Section C.2.1. (H) 17. Page 12	The RFP requires system downtime of less than 8 hours per year for unscheduled downtime. Is this for all components of the solution – data entry, reporting, machine-to-machine interface and batch processing – or for only certain components? Will the government consider having various performance incentives tied to certain system uptime goals versus an explicit 8-hour requirement?	The requirement defines down time for FPDS-NG as a system, not individual functionalities within the system. The Offeror has the flexibility to propose other performance incentives and related metrics.
111		Section C.2.1. (I) 18. Page 12	For the requirement to “prepare special reports for Congress, GAO, and other entities as requested,” please provide estimates needed to scope this effort (e.g., average number of requests per year, average level of effort historically required from FPDC staff to satisfy a request or number of FPDC FTEs historically dedicated to this effort).	The FPDC staff processed 846 requests for reports in FY02. Processing time generally ranged between 2 and 10 days.
112		Page 12	For the requirements to “provide liaison staff to other agencies to monitor and support the submission of data,” please provide estimates needed to scope this effort (e.g., number of FPDC FTEs historically dedicated to this effort).	The staff providing liaison support is 3 people.
113		Section C.2.1. (J) 20. Page 13	The RFP states, “The Integrated Acquisition Environment has specific requirements for user authentication. Please see Attachment J9.” It is unclear from J9 what those requirements are. Can more detail be provided?	The RFP, Section C.2.1.(J), is revised to correct the attachment number. Please see Attachment J11.
114		Page 13	For the user levels identified in the RFP, none of the categories have identified the ability to access the interactive reporting capabilities of the solution. Which user types are envisioned access to these features?	Every user must have access to this capability.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
115		Page 14	The RFP states "security costs shall be given a separate accounting and procedures shall meet the procedural requirements of NIACAP." Is the scope of effort for supporting the NIACAP certification process included in CLIN 001 or will this be separately contracted?	Supporting the Government's NIACAP requirements is within the scope of CLIN 0001.
116		Section C.2.1. (K) 23. Page 16	The RFP states "the following interoperability requirements are included in the base contract: a. CCR/Business Partner Network b. Automatic Contract Writing System c. ECatalog/GWAC Web Site Does 'Automatic Contract Writing System' refer to the agency contract writing systems that will interoperate with FPDS-NG? If not, in order to help vendors scope this requirement, can the government provide more detail on this system (technical specifications, data model, interface specifications)? In order to help vendors scope this requirement, can the government provide more detail on the 'eCatalog/GWAC Web Site' (e.g., technical specifications, data model, interface specifications)?	"Automatic Contract Writing System" does refer to the "agency contract writing systems" that will interoperate with FPDS-NG.  The "eCatalog/GWAC Web Site" is under development and the interoperability specification has not been finalized.

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No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
117		Section I.3 24. [Page 35-3	The RFP states, "...in no event shall the total final price of these item exceed the ceiling price of \$5.6 million dollars..." What period of performance does the \$5.6M cover (i.e., base period only which consist of three years; or all 8 or 10 years-see Item one above regarding the 10 years)? In Section M, the language suggests that \$5.6M covers development and implementation only. Please clarify.	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p> <p>There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an</p>

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
118		Section J9 IAE Conceptual Interconnections 25. [Page 22]	The diagram shows "Pre-award and Admin Data" interfacing between FPDS-NG and the Automated Contract Writing Systems. Please elaborate on the type of data to be interfaced if this is a requirement under CLIN 01.	These data are defined in Attachment J1, Data Dictionary, and the interface is a requirement under CLIN 0001.
119		Section J.11, eGov Architectural Requirements 26. [Page 237]	<p>The following requirement addresses interoperability with the eAuthentication e-government initiative. Given that the eAuthentication initiative isn't scheduled to publish standards until June or July of 2003, and the programs delayed several aspects of its original procurement schedule, please clarify the expectation for coordination and integration with the initiative.</p> <p>"Projects shall be capable of interfacing with and authenticating users via the Federal Government eAuthentication Gateway at the appropriate authentication level. eAuthentication standards are expected to be published 60-90 days before the eAuthentication Gateway goes live (targeted for September 2003). The interface shall use industry open system standard security protocols. eAuthentication policies and technical information may be found on the web at <a href="http://www.cio.gov/eauthentication">http://www.cio.gov/eauthentication</a>."</p>	The information provided is the only information available. The interoperability standard will be provided when finalized.

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No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
120		Section M.3.2.2, Price	Please describe how the government will evaluate Best Value given the possible options that a Contractor can bid. For example, how will the government evaluate pricing for Business Approach 1, Contractor Owned and Operated Full Service with Business Approach 4, Government Owned and Operated to determine best value to the government? Please elaborate.	Please refer to Section M.1 of the RFP which contains proposal evaluation factors.
121		General Questions	According to the Federal Enterprise Architecture website ( <a href="http://www.feapmo.gov/feaTrm.htm">http://www.feapmo.gov/feaTrm.htm</a> ), the Technical Reference Model has not yet been released. Can the government provide access to this information or provide other documentation to provide guidance that a proposed solution is in line with this architecture?	The Technical Reference Model is not available. Attachment J11 contains all of the guidance that has been approved at this time.
122			Can the solution offer standards reports in a format that requires a plug-in for viewing, specifically posting standard reports to the website in PDF format?	Standard reports must be available in Section 508 compliant HTML format. Users may be offered other options for downloading the reports or data.
123			For the system integrations that are in scope of CLIN 001, can the government provide details of the current integration with FPDS?	FPDS interoperates with other systems using batch procedures. There is currently no interoperability between FPDS and CCR or between FPDS and the eCatalog/GWAC Web Site. The interoperability specification for agency feeder and contract writing systems are in the FPDS Reporting Manual which may be downloaded from the <a href="http://FPDC.gov">FPDC.gov</a> web site.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
124			Is there currently a unique identifier for transactions that can be used to ensure that duplicate records are not submitted?	In the current FPDS, each individually reported transaction is identified uniquely using a combination of the agency code, the contracting office code, the action date, the contract number, the order number, and the modification number.
125			What happens to data fields that are dropped from the FPDS data dictionary? (E.g., if there is a field for phone number and on a later version of the FPDS data dictionary eliminates the phone number field, do we delete the phone number from existing records?)	There is currently no authorization to delete any data. Such changes are never retroactively applied to existing data.
126			For purposes of clarity and consistency, please number the tasks found in Section C.2.1, on pages 5 - 15 in the SOO.	The Government believes the current identification is sufficient. The Offeror may number his proposal.
127		B1F.2 H.10/p.2p.21p. 29	Does the Government total the eligible period of performance as 10 years counting a 3 year base period, 2 one year options and potential to earn up to five one year award term extension?	There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The Contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an incentive or award plan. See F.2 also.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
128		M.2.3.4B1. Contract Type/p. 373p.2	"The cost/price evaluation will be based on the entire project. Offers that total in excess of \$5,600,000 for development and implementation (Ceiling Cost) are unacceptable and that offer will be eliminated from further evaluation."Please clarify. Is the \$5,600,000 for development and implementation, which is part of the 3-year Base Period, to be interpreted as the ceiling cost for this period, which includes operations/maintenance? Or is the \$5,600,000 for development and implementation just for that effort and not the operations/maintenance?	The \$5.6 million is for the development, implementation, and acceptance effort which is part of the 3 year base period. See revised Section B.
129		J16/p. 334	PROTECTION OF INFORMATION "If access to classified materials is required for completion of the task, the contractor shall supply personnel with appropriate security clearances for these portions of the task." Is the government aware of any classified materials required for the completion of this task? If not, and it is later determined that national security clearances are required, will the government pay to obtain the necessary clearances for the contractor?	There is currently no classified information specified for FPDS-NG. The attachment is the GSA guidance applicable to all contracts. Such a change would be subject to a negotiated agreement.
130		J16/p. 334	Classified Storage: "The contractor may need to establish and maintain a classified facility and procedures for receipt, storage and generation of classified materials..."Is the government aware of any classified materials required for the completion of this task? If not, and it is later determined that the contractors must use a classified facility to receive, store and generate classified material, will the government bear the expense to gain facility clearance?	There is currently no classified information specified for FPDS-NG. The attachment is the GSA guidance applicable to all contracts. Such a change would be subject to a negotiated agreement.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
131		B.2 Schedule, Business / p. 2	Does the Government intend that the overrun/underrun provisions apply only to the development phase of the project?	Cost sharing is anticipated to apply to CLIN 0001 only. See revised Sections B and C.
132		B.2 Schedule, Business	Please verify that contractors will be responsible for only 40% of any cost overruns.	Up to the negotiated ceiling price, yes.
133		B.2 Schedule, Business	How does the Government intend to determine underruns/overruns in the operational phase of the project?	The Government anticipates Firm Fixed Prices for operation and maintenance. See revised Sections B and C.
134	K.11, 52.230-1 Cost Accounting Standards/p. 348	B.2 Schedule, Business Approach 2	Please verify that any COTS licenses already owned by the Government for the current system may be transferred at no cost to the upgraded system.	There are no licenses for COTS products in use that may be transferred to the FPDS-NG contractor unless the FPDS-NG contractor assumes responsibility for operating FPDS until it is decommissioned.
135		H.8 Technology Refreshments and Enhancements/ p. 28	Does the Government propose that contractors issue requests for change orders to provide for technology refreshment and enhancements?	The provision allows both the Government and the Contractor to propose technology refreshment and upgrades.
136		H.8 Technology Refreshments and Enhancements/ p. 28	Please define the incentives proposed for technology refreshment and enhancements.	There are no incentives identified for technology refreshment and enhancements. The Offeror may propose incentives in the proposal.
137		L. 9.3.4, Subcontracting Plan/p. 364	Please verify that the small business requirement of 20% is inclusive of the small disadvantaged, small women-owned, HUBZone Certified, Small Veteran-Owned requirements and readjust the subcontracting % goals accordingly.	The small business subcontracting goal of 20% is inclusive of all categories listed. However, the percentages are correct as stated (each may not be mutually exclusive of all others).

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
138		K.11, 52.230-1 Cost Accounting Standards	Please verify that offerors proposing commercial corporate entities may propose those entities as a Fixed Price Other Direct Cost with price reasonableness supporting data for those entities and that other entities cost disclosed for the remaining capabilities will be deemed an acceptable pricing approach.	If the Offeror qualifies for one of the stated exemptions to CAS, his proposal should indicate such.
139		L. 8 Proposal format and Submission Instructions/p. 356	To ensure that the majority of the allocated pages are used to define the system technical specifications and performance work statement, will the Government consider that the elements such as the Quality Assurance Plan and Configuration Plan be provided in outline format with the final plan due a specified number of days after contract award?	The Government believes the 75 pages are adequate to convey the required information. All information must be submitted by the proposal submission deadline.
140		B2 – CLIN 0001/p. 2	Can the contractor use the existing hardware inventory in the proposed plan for FPDS-NG operations and maintenance?	There is no GFE except for the GSA computer facility (for Business Approaches 3 and 4) anticipated for this effort. The existing hardware is required to operate the current FPDS until it is decommissioned. The Offeror may propose an alternative method to accomplish the transition from FPDS to FPDS-NG.
141		C.2.1/p. 5	What is the volume and frequency of “change” transactions that the government expects for each contract record?	In the current FPDS, change transactions amount to about 2% of the total.
142		C.2.1/p. 6	The RFP says “Provide the capability for the FPDS-NG System Administrator to override FPDS-NG validation rules upon challenge of an error notice” Will the override be permanent and for all records? Or should the override be designed for a case-by-case basis?	The override will depend on the specific circumstances. In general, the Government expects this to be rare and temporary.
143		B2 – CLIN 0001/p. 2	Is the government open to a phased approach for transitioning data entry to the FPDS-NG, the first phase being implemented on 10/1/2003?	The Government will evaluate all proposed solutions.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
144		C.2.1 - C/p. 9	“Provide a mechanism for receiving one or more transactions in a single data submission session.”Does this mean that the machine-to-machine interface must support batch submissions?	The Government envisions that, for reasons of efficiency, large agency systems (like DOD's) could group individual transactions. Instead of sending multiple individual transactions, several individual transactions may be grouped into a single transmission unit. The Government does not consider this to be "batch" processing.
145		C.2.1 - E/Page 10	Reporting and Querying – What user groups/estimated number of users are to have the functional capabilities in this section? Please provide a matrix for the 15 reporting and querying requirements with the applicable user group and number of users.	All users must have query capability. With the exception of reports that are clearly intended for one user or group of users (e.g., "Weekly Administrator Status Email" or "Quarterly 1099 to IRS") or that are from working data (e.g., suspended or erred transactions), reports are accessible by anyone.
146		C.2.1 - E/Page 10	“Users will have the capability to export or download formatted reports or report data to other formats including (but not limited to) text, HTML, Rich Text, spreadsheets and databases.” 1. Please specify all other formats.2. Please identify what format(s) are required for each of the standard reports listed in attachment J5.	The Offeror is required to propose a specific solution. The Government requires that all reports be available in all formats contracted for.
147		C.2.1 - F/Page 11	“Provide a training plan for agency administrators as FPDS-NG is deployed.”1. Is there a requirement for the contractor to conduct instructor led training for the FPDS-NG system to agency administrators?2. If instructor led training is a requirement, how many sessions will be required? And will the government provide a classroom space for end user computer training?	The Government does not have a specific requirement for classroom training. There is a requirement for a training plan for approximately 120 agency administrators. If classroom space is required, the Offeror must provide it.

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No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
148		C.2.1 - I/Page 12	"Provide full system and user documentation."Please specify exactly what documents are to be developed under the contract.	In addition to the specific documents required in Section F.4, the Government requires "best commercial practice" for a system of this complexity. Offerors must propose the documentation that will be provided.
149		C.2.1 - I/Page 12	"Provide liaison staff to other agencies to monitor and support the submission of data."1. Please clarify how this requirement differs from the end user support to be provided by the help desk (pg. 11).2. Please clarify how this service differs from the optional CLIN 0002 (pg. 3) where GSA will allow other Government agencies to issue task orders to the selected FPDS-NG vendor to assist agencies in adapting/modifying their individual agency contract writing/feeder systems.	As defined in the RFP, the help desk provides assistance to users who are having difficulty using FPDS-NG and other support functions.. Liaison staff monitors compliance with the data submission requirement and resolve problems related to agency data submissions.  CLIN 0002 enables other agencies to use this contract vehicle to acquire support to adapt or modify their contract writing/feeder systems in accordance with the FPDS-NG interface standards.
150		C.2.1 - I/Page 13	"Work with agencies that submit procurement data to FPDS-NG to switch from using the batch interface to using the machine to machine interface."Please clarify how this service differs from the optional CLIN 0002 (pg. 3) where GSA will allow other Government agencies to issue task orders to the selected FPDS-NG vendor to assist agencies in adapting/modifying their individual agency contract writing/feeder systems	There is some level of technical and management coordination that is required even if an agency does not choose to use CLIN 0002. CLIN 0002 enables other agencies to use this contract vehicle to acquire support to adapt or modify their contract writing/feeder systems in accordance with the FPDS-NG interface standards. The agencies will fund CLIN 0002 support.
151		C.2.1 - I/Page 13	Has the Change Control Board/ FPDS-NG Advisory Board already been established?	The CCB will be established before FPDS-NG becomes operational.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
152		C.2.1 – K/p. 15	For those systems where interoperability “may be” required at a later date, is it acceptable to the government to delay any validation with those system until interoperability is complete? For example, in section J-4 validation requirement 1E – 2 the pre-award solicitation requirement says that if yes, then the solicitation identifier must be in FedBizOps. This validation would be delayed until interoperability with FedBizOps is required.	Yes, that is correct.
153		J-5/pp. 202-206	Please identify the user groups that are to have access to each of the reports listed in attachment J5 – FPDS-NG Sample Reports.	With the exception of reports that are clearly intended for one user or group of users (e.g., "Weekly Administrator Status Email" or "Quarterly 1099 to IRS") or that are from working data (e.g., suspended or erred transactions), reports are accessible by anyone.
154		C.2.1 A) General Requirements/ p.6	“Provide a method for agency systems administrators to generate change transactions for individual or multiple selected transactions from the FPDS-NG database.” Does the government envision a web page where an agency system administrator chooses previously submitted transactions and make changes to these transactions?	The Government envisions a browser-based capability for Agency/Sub-agency FPDS Administrators to select one or more transactions and for those transactions, generate change transactions for one or more of the fields common to those transactions. For example, select 5 award transactions for which Bundled Requirement (Data Dictionary item 8D) was erroneously answered 'Y' and generate 5 change transactions for the corrections to change Bundled Requirement to 'N'.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
155			<p>“Provide the capability for the FPDS-NG System Administrator to override FPDS-NG validation rules upon challenge of an error notice.”Does the government mean that an agency system can commit a transaction even though there was an error associated with that transaction due to a validation rule?</p>	<p>No. The Government intends for only the FPDS-NG System Administrator to have that capability only under certain circumstances. The intent is to handle unusual situations or, for example, it is determined that a specific validation rule is either wrong or implemented incorrectly and the change control board has not yet completed its deliberations.</p>
156		<p>C.2.1 A) General Requirements and GSA eGov Architectural Requirements/ p. 6 and p. 237</p>	<p>“Web-based interfaces shall support commonly used browsers (such as Netscape 4.0, Internet Explorer 4.0, and Opera 5.0).”“Web Browser-Based User Interface Provide a browser-based user interface that: Is compatible with Microsoft Internet Explorer browser version 5.5 or later and with Netscape Navigator browser version 6.x or later;”There appears to be a contradiction on the Browser version between the section C.2.1 General Requirements and the GSA eGov Architecture Requirements. Please clarify the required browser versions.</p>	<p>The statement on page 236 is the minimum requirement, but FPDS-NG has a more stringent requirement.</p> <p>The requirement in Section C has been revised.</p> <p>The Offeror must propose a set of standards that will be used in designing the browser-based interfaces and the testing that will be conducted to ensure the interfaces are functional in a broad range of browsers.</p>
157			<p>“FPDS-NG data entry screens will be standardized. However, dynamic customization may be required to support unique agency requirements and data variations. The intent is that, for approved variations in the data (defined in the data dictionary), the user will see only appropriate data entry fields and appropriate data values in lists.”Does the government mean that, based on the agency profile, the data entry screen will change? Or does the government mean that the agency can supply no conformed data based on its data requirements?</p>	<p>The Use Case Summaries, Attachment J2, define what data is required for each type of transaction. The Government expects, as a minimum, that the data requested in the browser-based direct key entry system will be adapted based on that matrix. In addition, there are situations where data entered at one point will change the data that appears subsequently; for example, if a procurement is competitive (response for Data Dictionary item 10A) then the only responses possible are for Competitive Procedures (Data Dictionary item 10B), so Reason Not Competed (Data Dictionary item 10C) should not appear.</p>

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
158		C.2.1 A) General Requirements/ p. 8	"When creating a new transaction, pre-populate appropriate data fields from the user's profile." Please clarify what the government means by "a transaction." Can a transaction contain multiple records?	In this context, the Government means one of the transactions listed in the Use Case Summaries.
159		p. 8	"Provide a template capability to allow easy entry of multiple transactions with similar data." Does the government mean that an agency can copy an existing transaction and modify the data?	The Government does not want to limit the consideration of any way of accomplishing this and will not comment on any specific method prior to receipt of proposals.
160		p. 8	"Provide a machine-to-machine information exchange capability to interoperate with government agency contract writing and e-commerce systems and with other e-business systems using the standards and protocols contained in the Federal Enterprise Architecture. "Does the government envision that some of the machine-to-machine interfaces will be completed using Web Services and other using integration server type of technology?"	The Government's objective is to use open standards to establish standard transactions that to be used by all systems that interoperate with FPDS-NG. Recognizing that this will require transition strategies for most agencies, the Government also requires the Contractor to provide "integration server type of technology" to permit interoperability during the transition period.
161		p. 9	"The contractor will define a methodology that allows FPDS-NG to "push" changes to agency procurement systems (or agency FPDS-NG administrators) and enables agencies to incorporate the changes with minimal human intervention." Does the government envision that FPDS-NG will push data to agencies using web services only? If an agency procurement system is not capable of receiving changes via web services, how does the government intend for these data to be pushed?	The Government is seeking a solution for the problem that changes, once approved by the change control board, can not be implemented timely Government-wide. The Government's objective is to implement change rapidly by automating as much of the process as possible.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
162		p. 9	"Agencies must be able to change the data that is collected or to change the validation rules applied to data within 30 days following approval of the change by the government change control board."Does the government mean that agencies will be able to change the validation rules in the FPDS-NG system during the system lifecycle phase after the change control board approval of the change?	No, the agencies will not be changing the FPDS-NG system. The Government is seeking a solution for the problem that changes, once approved by the change control board, can not be implemented timely Government-wide. The Government's objective is to implement change rapidly by automating as much of the process as possible.
163		D) Batch Interfaces/p.9	"Provide automated standard processes to return receipts and error messages to agencies that submit procurement data."Please clarify what the government means by "standard processes to return receipts and error messages."	The Offeror is to design a solution that provides confirmation that a transaction has been received and processed.
164		E) Reporting and Querying p. 10	"Provide an online capability for querying and reporting all the data elements, in any format, for all data contained in FPDS-NG (e.g., Standard, Ad-hoc, Summary, and Detailed reports)."Please clarify what the government means by "in any format."	This means the user can specify the content and appearance of a report.
165		p. 10	"Users will have the capability to export or download formatted reports or report data to other formats including (but not limited to) text, HTML, Rich Text, spreadsheets, and databases."Please advise on all the possible downloadable formats the government will require for reports.	The Government does not have a specific requirement. Offerors must propose formats.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
166		p. 10	"Provide capability for user to schedule periodic report creation and delivery."Please clarify. Does the government mean that the system will provide the users with the capability of designing, creating, and scheduling ad hoc reports? And that the system will deliver these reports using email or to a web browser based on the user chosen option?	The interpretation is correct.
167		p. 10	"Provide a method for identifying and producing standard reports similar to those listed in Attachment J5."Does the government intend to provide the user with ad hoc report capability?	C.2.1.E) first paragraph includes a requirement for this capability.
168		p. 11	"Allow users to pay a fixed fee for each report."How will the system determine what is the fixed fee for a report? Are these standard reports or ad hoc? If they are ad hoc, how will the fee be determined?	<p>The Government envisions that any reporting service provided as a "self service" on-line report or query will be provided without charge. Certain users including Congress, GAO, or investigation bodies are exempt from any payment requirement.</p> <p>The Contractor may propose a method for recouping the cost of additional reporting services, however, by statute, the fees for "raw" data must be on a "cost recovery" basis.</p>
169		G) Transition/p. 11	"Provide access to the data currently stored in FPDS."Will any of the current FPDS data need to be cleaned?	The data in the current FPDS passes all data validations that were applied when the data was submitted. The Offeror's quality assurance plan should address all data quality issues including the issue raised here.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
170		p. 11	"The current FPDS may continue operations for up to 6 months to complete processing of transactions from prior to October 1, 2003."Will the contractor have the responsibility for the data migration during the parallel operation process?	The Offeror's proposal must address this requirement.
171		p. 11	"The current FPDS may continue operations for up to 6 months to complete processing of transactions from prior to October 1, 2003."Will the contractor have the responsibility for the data migration during the parallel operation process?	The Offeror's proposal must address this requirement.
172		p.12	"Process every real-time data input transaction within one second allowing for peaks of at least 100 transactions per second."Please clarify the government's definition of "data input transaction." Is a "data input transaction" a screen, a record?	How much data is involved in any single input transaction will depend on the source and the solution design. For example, a machine-to-machine transaction could have an entire record as one transaction. On the other hand, a browser-based transaction (meaning one screen, in this instance) may contain less data than an entire record.
173		p. 12	"Support 1,000 to 10,000 concurrent users."Please clarify the concurrent users' requirement. What does the government envision the mix of scripts the users will be performing?	The system must be capable of simultaneously supporting multiple users who are performing different functions. The system is new, so the Government does not have an estimate of the mix of possible actions users may be requesting.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
174		K) Inter-operability p. 15	"The following interoperability requirements are included in the base contract:CCR/Business Partner NetworkAutomatic Contract Writing SystemeCatalog/GWAC Web Site"Does the government envision that all these systems will exchange data with FPDS-NG using web services?	For CCR, the interface specification is on the CCR.gov web site. The interface specification for the eCatalog/GWAC web site has not been completed; it will be provided once it is completed.  Interoperability with Automatic Contract Writing Systems shall be defined by the Offeror. The interface specification is a contract deliverable.
175		L.8 p. 356	Will the government consider relaxing the Volume 1 page count requirements? Given the detail of information required in the proposals, 75 pages are not sufficient to provide the government with a full and compliant response. We suggest that the Performance Work Statement, Quality Assurance Plan, Past Performance summaries, and Key Personnel resumes be exempt from the page count (perhaps included as Appendixes to the proposal) and the page count be increased to 150 pages.	The Government believes the 75 pages are adequate to convey the required information. All information must be submitted by the proposal submission deadline.
176		J9 p. 221	Please provide a new copy of the IAE Conceptual Interconnections. The current copy is unreadable.	Another copy will be posted.
177		L.9.2.3 and L.9.3.5 pp. 362, 364	Please confirm that the past performance questionnaires have to be completed by the same references as cited in the Relevant Experience section of the proposal.	Attachment J7 may be completed by the same or three different references than those called for in Section L.9.2.3.
178		M.2.2.3 pp. 371-372	Please clarify the Merit Ratings and Confidence Ratings for the Corporate Past Performance and Experience evaluation factor. They appear to be the ratings for the Technical Solution factor.	Please see the revised Section L.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
179		B) Browser Based InterfacesJ11 p. 6 and p. 237	<p>“Web-based interfaces shall support commonly used browsers (such as Netscape 4.0, Internet Explorer 4.0, and Opera 5.0) without active components of any kind (including plug-ins, JavaScript, java applets, or scripting support), or use of persistent cookies.”“Requires no client application software other than one of the specified web browsers with associated signed plug-ins or signed Java applets that are downloadable on demand.”If client scripts are signed by the system, will the Government allow client side scripting? This will increase the performance of the system.</p>	<p>The requirements do not allow client side scripting.</p>
180			<p>Would GSA FPDS be willing to establish a Transaction Fee for Revenue Sharing Model with the contractor?If GSA is willing to enter into this type of arrangement, how many transactions per month does the current FAMIS receive for reports and information requests? Does GSA have an anticipated number of transactions they will receive monthly on the new FPDS environment?If GSA is willing to enter into this type of arrangement where the contractor would be able to receive revenue from the transaction fee, would GSA, based on the current demands for transaction requests on the existing FAMIS environment, be willing to establish a minimum monthly number of transactions for the contractor to base a minimum monthly transaction fee revenue fee?If GSA is willing to enter into this type of arrangement, what percentage of the revenue per transaction would GSA be willing to share with the contractor?</p>	<p>The solicitation permits the Offerors to propose alternative approaches to meeting the requirements and alternative pricing arrangements. The Government will evaluate all of these in accordance with the evaluation criteria.</p> <p>Current average transactions input profile is as follows: 1st quarter 100k to 110k transactions; 2nd quarter 110k to 130k transactions; 3rd quarter 115k to 150k; 4th quarter 170k to 190k transactions.</p> <p>The estimated transaction volume for FPDS-NG is 20 to 25 times larger, 10 million to 13 million transactions per year. The Government does not have a projected profile for this volume of transactions.</p>

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No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
181		B.2 p. 3	CLIN0001 – Business Approach 3, The last sentence states that the contractor owns and maintains the hardware. This statement is inconsistent with the Government Owned Approach title. Please clarify.	The description is correctly stated. The Government owns the "software" but the Contractor owns and maintains the hardware.
182		B.2 p. 3	CLIN0001 – Business Approach 3, The last sentence states that the contractor owns and maintains the hardware. This statement is inconsistent with the Government Owned Approach title. Please clarify.	The description is correctly stated. The Government owns the "software" but the Contractor owns and maintains the hardware.
183		B.2 p. 3	CLIN0002 - Please define what types of tasks may be required to assist the agencies to adapt/modify their systems	Required tasks would be a matter for the Contractor and agencies to negotiate.
184		B.2 p. 3	CLIN0002 – Does the Government require that this CLIN be priced in the proposal? If yes, is this a FFP CLIN or T&M?	Offerors may propose a pricing strategy for CLIN 0002.
185		C.1.2 p. 4	If requested, will the Government provide the contractor with access to the production FPDS code, applications, routines and data?	The awardee will have access to these.
186		C.2.1 (H) p. 12	Please describe the requirements and process for user registration. Is the development of a registration process a contractor requirement under this solicitation?	The user registration process is a requirement for the contractor to develop under this solicitation. C.2.1.J) is revised to clarify this requirement.
187			This contractor assumes that this is a part 15 acquisition. Based on this assumption, and the belief that adequate competition exists for this procurement, we assume that cost and pricing data and cost disclosure as shown in FAR Table 15-2 is not required.	This is a FAR Part 15 acquisition. Cost and Pricing Data are not required as the Government expects to receive adequate price competition. The Offeror must submit a cost proposal in accordance with L.9.3.6.

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No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
188		G13 Site Visit	We attended the [Government's] site visit to see the government host site for RFP Business Approaches 3 & 4. Has the government deemed that the [Government's] site meets all of the RFP requirements for hosting, system availability, backup, and recovery?	The Government deems the facilities services to be adequate. These are telecommunications, power, space, air conditioning. The Offeror must propose a solution that meets the requirements in all respects. For business approach 3, the Contractor will be responsible for maintaining the system including all aspects other than those listed above.
189		G13 Site Visit	The administrator of the [Government's] site said that they operate as a cost center, billing the responsible government office for the cost of hosting and operating the systems located in the [Government's] facility. How should vendors responding to the FPDS-NG RFP considering a bid of Options 3 & 4 factor in the [facility's] costs? Are the costs incurred for using the [Government's] facility considered to be included in the total amount of funding for this effort? If so, how should vendors price hosting and administrative costs associated with FPDS-NG at the [Government's] site?	Hosting at the Government site may be treated as GFP for this purpose.
190		G13 Site Visit	How many FTEs will support the current FPDS system after it has been moved to [the GSA facility]?	Thirteen people support the current FPDS. This will not be changed by the relocation.
191		C.2.1 H) p. 12	"Scheduled down time may occur not more frequently than once each month for a time period of up to 12 hours (noon Saturday to noon Sunday)"Please clarify the scheduled down time requirements. Is it once each month for 12 hours or 24 hours (noon Saturday to noon Sunday is 24 hours)?	The RFP is revised to state scheduled down time of twenty-four hours.
192			May contractors use their GSA schedule prices?	Yes, however this solicitation is not limited to GSA schedule holders.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
193		L.9.3.4 p. 364	Are contractors required to submit a subcontracting plan if they do not intend to use subcontractors?	The plan is not required if no subcontractors will be used. This must be indicated in the Offeror's Business Proposal.
194		H.2 Key Personnel p. 27	Please clarify the RFP requirement prohibiting personnel substitutions in the first year of the contract except for sudden illness, death or termination of employment. Does this apply only to key personnel?	Yes, key personnel only.
195		H. 2 Key Personnel p. 27	Prohibiting personnel substitutions in the first year of the contract except for sudden illness, death or termination of employment could limit the number of key personnel or other staff proposed in this proposal by name. Relaxing or eliminating this requirement except for the advance notification in H.2(E) poses little risk to the Government.	The required clause assures the Government that the proposed key personnel are committed to the project.
196		L.12 Operational Capability Demonstration p. 366	Once the apparent successful bidder has been notified, how many days will they have to conduct the OCD for COTS products?	GSA will give the apparent, successful Offeror a week's notice before he must begin the OCD. The Government anticipates giving the Offeror 5-7 days to complete the OCD. See revised Section L.12.
197		L. 12 p. 366	Please define the OCD requirements, format, and length.	This will depend on the Offeror's proposed solution.
198		L.12 p. 366	When is contract award expected? Offerors will need to plan ahead for the OCD.	Contract award is anticipated in Jan 2003
199		L Instructions to Offerors p. 354	Please provide a schedule that provides dates for key events including proposal evaluations, Government request for clarifications and correction of deficiencies, notification of apparent successful offeror, operational capability demonstration, negotiations and final contract award.	The Government intends to make an award in January, 2003. Personnel involved with the submitted proposal must be available to respond to issues/questions, etc.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
200		C.2.1 (H) p. 12	The 99.9% uptime requirement suggests that the FPDS-NG system is one of Mission Critical status with in the federal government. The high level of hardware and software redundancy required to meet this objective, along with elevated levels of support, make this system prohibitively expensive. To mitigate the vendor's risk, will the government consider relaxing this requirement so vendors aren't compelled to over engineer the system?	The Government calculated the actual up time requirement at $8464 / 8760 = 96.6\%$ up time. See L.9.2.1 and L.9.2.2.
201			How will the Government evaluate and compare pricing for different business models for FPDS-NG, i.e., GOGO; GOCO (Government facility); GOCO (Contractor facility); or, COCO?	Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with Section M, Evaluation Factors For Award. The award will be for the solution that provides the best value to the Government.
202			Given that the number and complexity of individual agency contract writing/feeder systems that will be interfaced under CLIN 0002 Task Orders cannot be determined at this time, is the GSA requiring that CLIN 0002 be priced as part of this submission?	The requirement is to propose a pricing strategy.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
203		Reference Section B, paragraph B.1, page 2.	The Government states that the "anticipated period of performance is a base period of 3 years with 2 one year options plus a potential for earning up to 5 award term years. The total term of the contract will not exceed 8 years." The total of the base, option and award term years is 10. Should this be the correct number or does the Government intend that the combination of option and term years should not exceed 5?	There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an incentive or award plan. See F.2 also.
204		Reference Section B, paragraph B.1, page 2.	The contract type is Fixed Price Incentive with incentives being additional terms. The last paragraph of B.1 discusses a share ratio for cost over-runs and underruns. However, if this is a fixed price bid, please clarify how can there be an over-run or underrun that affects the Government	See FAR part 16.403 for definition and requirements for a Fixed Price Incentive type contract.
205		Reference Section B, page 3.	Under the description of Business Approach 3, Government Owned and Contractor Operated, the last sentence in the paragraph states, "The Contractor owns and maintains the hardware." Does the Government intend for the Contractor to own the hardware in this option or should the sentence read, "The Government owns and maintains the hardware?"	The description is correctly stated. The Government owns the "software" but the Contractor owns and maintains the hardware.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
206		Reference Section B, page 3	CLIN 0002 states "...the GSA will allow other Government agencies to issue task orders to the selected FPDS-NG vendor...." If this CLIN is exercised, will the GSA allow other agencies to issue task orders on a basis other than Fixed Price Incentive, e.g., Time and Materials?	Yes. The Offeror must propose a pricing strategy.
207			The Government states that the maximum amount available for development and implementation is \$5.6M. Will the Government clarify its use of the term "implementation?" For instance, does the term include development and interface with any feeder systems or is it limited to the development, installation and checkout of the FPDS-NG database system at the operational site?	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p> <p>The term includes building and installing the FPDS-NG half of the standards based interface specification for interfaces with agency systems. It does not include any alteration of agency systems to implement the interface. CLIN 0002 is an option under which the agencies may task the Contractor for upgrade and modification to their systems.</p>

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
208		Reference Section I, paragraph I.3 (1), page 36.	Will the Government clarify why a monthly “de-tailed statement of all costs incurred...” is required for a firm-fixed-price contract?	The Offeror has the flexibility to propose other than a Fixed Price Incentive type contract. If a Firm Fixed Price type contract is negotiated, this clause would not be applicable.
209		Reference Section I, paragraph I.4 (3), page 39.	The RFP states that “a concern that is both a HUBZone small business concern and a small disadvantaged business concern will receive the benefit of both the HUBZone small business price evaluation preference and the small disadvantaged business price evaluation adjustment.” Does this mean that they’ll automatically receive a 20% discount?	If the firm meets both criteria, the adjustment will be calculated as specified in FAR 52.219-4.
210			Is the existing data in the current FPDS good data? In other words, what percent of the existing data is considered “unusable” data?	The data in the current FPDS passes all data validations that were applied when the data was submitted.
211			If there is “unusable” data, will that data be discarded or destroyed? Before or after migration?	The data in the current FPDS passes all data validations that were applied when the data was submitted. There is no authority to delete data.
212			During migration the table and fields are to conform to the new database. Will some data be discarded that does not match that new database?	There is no authority to delete data.
213			During migration the table and fields are to conform to the new database. If some data is discarded, what will the vendor do with that data? Keep it in another database? Destroy it?	There is no authority to delete data.
214			Once the existing data is migrated, does it need to be or does in have to be validated?	The data in the current FPDS passes all data validations that were applied when the data was submitted.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
215		Question 32	<p>In Question 32 from the previous Q&amp;As you stated: "There is currently no help desk for FPDS, but there are staff assigned to support agency data submission."</p> <p>How many calls does this staff take:                      Yearly                      Monthly                      Daily</p>	FPDC does not keep records of such calls.
216			Currently, for your help staff: Are there certain months where more calls are taken than other months? Do calls peak during certain months?	FPDC does not keep records of such calls.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
217			Is the \$5.6 Million for development only? Does the \$5.6 Million cover operations for 5 years? Is additional money to be provided to operate the system?	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p> <p>There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an</p>
218			What is the operation budget each year for the new FPDS-NG system?	The <u>estimate</u> is approximately \$4 million with annual inflation adjustments.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
219		Page 10, E	Please explain further your statement on page 10, E, first Paragraph: "Provide the capability to include data from other systems when such systems have exposed the data for query." Has any agency opened its system currently? Which will open their system(s) in the near term? What type of data will need to be transferred? Will it differ from FPDS-NG data? Will the FPDS-NG need to get data from other agencies as of 1 Oct 03?	The Government is not aware that this has been done at this point. This is a new capability. The type of transfer depends on the solution proposed by the Offeror. The data will differ from FPDS-NG data. The capability must exist on a schedule included in the contract.
220			Please explain more about the "data analysis technology (e.g., OLAP and/or data mining)" capabilities stated on page 10 that you desire. Could you provide examples of analysis now done.	FPDS does not currently provide this capability.
221		Page 11	"Provide training to users...." How many of the 100,000 users will need training beyond "Computer Based Training, or tutorial and searchable on-line user manual?"	The Government training requirement is as stated.
222		Page 11, last Paragraph	Who will run/operate the current FPDS up to 6 months after FPDS-NG becomes available? Is the vendor expected to migrate this 6 months worth of data into FPDS-NG at the end of the six-month period or continually throughout the 6 months period? Would it be permissible to migrate the current FPDS data after the 6 months ends so as not to do the migration twice?	The Government's requirement is that all data is required to be available for query at all times. The process or method the Offeror chooses to meet this requirement is at his discretion. The operation of the current FPDS is expected to continue for 6 months to continue collecting and processing FY03 data. The Offeror may propose to assume responsibility for FPDS in his transition strategy.
223		Page 12	How often do you think that a report to Congress, GAO or other entity will be required? Yearly?	In FY 02, organizations such as Congress and GAO requested numerous reports each month.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
224		Page 12	Will the "liaison staff" to other agencies be required to be on-site at those agencies? Will we be provided office space? How many "liaison staff" do you envision?	The Government does not have a requirement for liaison staff to be on site. The Government does not anticipate providing any facilities other than the hosting facility (Business Approaches 3 and 4). The Offeror has the flexibility to propose appropriate staff based on his solution.
225		Page 13, first paragraph	The vendor is required to prepare a "Marketing Plan." Will the vendor also be required to implement the marketing plan? Does GSA have a contract with another marketing vendor that will implement and run the marketing of FPDS? Is it GSA intention that the \$5.6 Million be used for solution development, system operations, help desk, liaison personnel and marketing?	<p>Yes, the awardee must implement the plan. No, GSA does not have a contractor for marketing support.</p> <p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p>
226			When marketing to the approximately 60 agencies, will they be ready by 1 Oct 03 to begin inputting data into the new FPDS? Are they making any changes to their methods that the vendor should be made aware of?	At this time, the Government can not state which agencies will have the capability to input data on October 1, 2003. The Government has no knowledge of specific changes agencies are currently undertaking.
227			Please provide the web site that the public currently used to access FPDS	The FPDC web site is <a href="http://www.fpdc.gov">www.fpdc.gov</a> .
228			Where can we find a copy of the "GSA Technical Architecture Standards?"	See J11.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
229			<p>Please provide</p> <p>a. A list of agencies that current use an electronic contract writing system</p> <p>b. The vendor who sold them the system and</p> <p>c. The type of protocol they could use to connect to FDPS-NG.</p> <p>This will allow us to better define the interface standard in such a manner that the majority of agencies will quickly be able to connect to the new FPDS-NG.</p>	<p>With respect to parts a and b, the Government does not have the requested information. With respect to part c, the Offer must propose an open standards method for accomplishing the interoperation.</p>
230		Page 0 (Cover Letter)	Page 0 (Cover Letter) -- The option to assist is inconsistent with FP contracting and is more appropriate with T&M contracting.	Section L.9.2.1 provides the flexibility to propose the pricing strategy for CLIN 0002 and C.2.2.
231		Page 3 (CLIN 0002)	Same comment as on cover page, assist is inappropriate for FP contracts.	Section L.9.2.1 provides the flexibility to propose the pricing strategy for CLIN 0002 and C.2.2.
232		Page 5 (Tasks, General Requirement)	On the help desk, is there a requirement to support the hearing impaired?	The systems/services must be Section 508 compliant. See RFP provision H.13.
233		Page 6	The phrases "Do not allow duplicate entries...." and "Provide capabilities ... to override..." are conflicting. This requirements conflict could result in possible database integrity problems. May we assume that those validation rules that may be overridden are those that will not jeopardize the database integrity or other essential functioning of the FPDS-NG?	Yes.
234		Page 6 (without active components)	This major statement eliminates multiple technical solutions. For example, JDeveloper has many features that require client-side active components. Is that the intent of GSA?	Yes.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
235		Page 7 ("dynamic customization")	This appears to be an "undefined requirement". May we assume that all requirements for dynamic customization have been specifically and completely described the RFP?	The Government has defined the data that must appear in data entry screens. The Offeror must propose a method for competing the design which may include additional customization.
236		Page 7 ("Virginia cities")	This requirement will be challenging without leveraging active components. In large states, this means a user will be presented a pick list with the thousands of cities of California, many of which start with "San". Is this a firm requirement or may we propose alternatives.	The Offeror has the flexibility to design a solution within the requirements. See L.9.2.1.
237		Page 8	("As first step in data entry, if the user enters...") The Record Key/Tie breaker issues are numerous. How do we know when we have a match? The "tie-breaker" field, the modification field, and several other comments in the data dictionary make this requirement vague. Would you provide a clearer requirement?	The primary identification is the Procurement Instrument Identifier (Data Dictionary item 1A). Modifications are also identified by a Modification Number (Data Dictionary item 1B). Transaction Number (Data Dictionary item 1D). Every transaction will be uniquely identified by one (or a combination) of these as shown in the Use Case Summaries (Attachment J2).
238		Page 8 / ("Intermediate data")	("Intermediate data") Since active components are inappropriate on the client, we can only save what has been transmitted to the server. Further, we can only transmit to the server base on the users clicking on a button. Please define the term intermediate data more clearly.	The offered interpretation is correct.
239		Page 10/ ("multiple transactions")	("multiple transactions") This appears to be some type of a global replace facility. This may be hard to do in the .NET framework. Please define this requirement more clearly.	The offered interpretation is correct.
240		Page 10 / ("exposed data")	This may discuss virtual links. Please define this requirement more clearly.	The Government envisions a capability where a query on FPDS-NG can pull in data from other systems. There are currently open standards technologies that permit this.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
241		Page 10	("vendor shall generate and post the ... FPR...") Why would the vendor do that? Should not the FPDS-NG system provide GSA with this capability? Please define this requirement more clearly.	Yes, FPDS-NG will provide this capability. See the revision.
242		Page 10	("provide state-of-the-art data analysis technology") Cost for this requirement is unbounded since commercial OLAP analysis tools vary greatly in performance and price. Cost per user is frequently several thousand dollars. Given 10,000 simultaneous users, this cost is great. Given 100,000 total users, should each user have access to the high-end adhoc capability of OLAP? May we assume a smaller number of high end users requiring full OLAP adhoc capability via commercial tools? May we provide canned reports plus a custom reports generator to all users while restricted access to the commercial OLAP tools to a lesser number of users? Please define this requirement more carefully.	See L.9.2.1 (Alternatives) and L.9.2.2 (Level of Corporate Commitment) which permit flexibility in the proposal.
243		Page 12	("Prepare special reports ... as requested.") This is inconsistent language for a Fixed Price contract. May we limit the number of special reports that may be requested? Please define this requirement more carefully.	See L.9.2.1 (Alternatives) and L.9.2.2 (Level of Corporate Commitment) which permit flexibility in the proposal.
244		Page 13	("Work with...") This open-ended language is inconsistent with a Fixed Price contract. Please define this requirement more carefully.	There is some level of technical and management coordination that is required even if an agency does not choose to use CLIN 0002.
245		Page 13	("Public (no authentication required)") We cannot provide change notices to all users since all users are not registered. (Conflict with other section.) Please define this requirement more carefully.	The Government does not require notification of "all" users. The Offeror has flexibility in meeting the requiremet.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
246		Page 15	("subject to the Change Clause") is a red flag. Is there an expectation from GSA that there will be a series of routine requirements changes? This is inconsistent with Fixed Price contracting.	The Changes clause allows the Government to make changes within the scope of the contract and is applicable to all contract types.
247		Page 16	("propose a methodology") Should this be included in Section L? Please define this requirement more carefully.	Please see revised Section B
248		Page 19	("will require one month") This indicates schedule impact. Contract award may be in February. Work would likely begin in March. That leaves April and May to develop the system. GSA will probably want several months for acceptance testing. Deployment will occur in September. The "go-live" date is October 1, 2003. For the Oct03 IOC delivery, would GSA accept an initial prototype system handling less than 10K simultaneous users with less than 24x7x365 fail over performance?	See L.9.2.1 (Alternatives) which permits flexibility in the proposal.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
249		Page 31/ ("Incentives")	In this section, the \$5.6 million appears to be for the entire contract, not the option years. Request GSA clarify the pricing intent for each year of the contract with options.	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p> <p>There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an</p>
250			(blank)	(blank)

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
251		J1 -- Data Elements	<p>There are only five tables, not 19. There are 19 "flavors" of data, but only eight suggested tables: Contract (1 through 12) Contractor (13) Office (14) Subcontracting (15) Customer Orders (16) Offset Officer (17) Contact (18) and Change Transaction (19). However, Contractor (13) comes from the CCR without modification. Subcontracting (15) appears to be a query vice a table. Offset Officer (17) only has one field, so it may not be a table. It appears that a User table is required to hold profile information. (Note that passwords are not required since authentication appears to be by the portal.) There are probably 30 other tables that we will derive from the requirements. For example, we'll need a table of valid agency codes. Please define this requirement more carefully.</p>	<p>The Government has defined (in Attachments J1 and J2) the data that is required to be maintained. The Offeror must define the implementation.</p>
252		J2 - Use Case Summary.	<p>J2 - Use Case Summary. This section is mis-labeled. This is a matrix of validation rules. Useful but not Uses. Please confirm whether use case summaries exist and are missing from the RFP.</p>	<p>Attachment J2 is not intended to be "use cases" in the object oriented programming sense. The Offeror may propose them as part of their proposal.</p>
253			<p>This section is mis-labeled. This is a matrix of validation rules. Useful but not Uses. Please confirm whether use case summaries exist and are missing from the RFP.</p>	<p>Attachment J2 is not intended to be "use cases" in the object oriented programming sense. The Offeror may propose them as part of their proposal.</p>
254		J3	<p>This logical data model is vague. The entities do not have a match in the data dictionary. Awards and "Mods and Other Trans." are both contained in the "Contract" entity. The entities don't match the business model. For example, the contracting office "administers contract" shouldn't connect to Mods and other Trans.</p>	<p>Attachment J3 is intended to illustrate the relationship of the data defined in Attachments J1 and J2. The Offeror may propose more detailed documentation.</p>

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
255		J4 - Validations	<p>Note the page numbers here are from the original version (Oct. 31, 2002).</p> <p>Page 165 J4.3 "Negotiations during development..." This is inconsistent with Fixed Price contracting.</p> <p>Page 192. This requirement is unclear. "PO" is not allowed in the physical address field. This is to avoid someone trying to "UPS" or "FedEx" something to a USPS post office box. However, "PO" is a perfectly good street name. See <a href="http://maps.expedia.com">maps.expedia.com</a> to validate: "Po Ave, Mission Viejo, CA, 92691". Please define this requirement more carefully.</p>	<p>All validations that are included in the proposed contract are included in the instant document. See revised validation for 18I.</p>
256		J5 - Sample Reports	<p>Page 203 alone contains five reports with "Example to be provided later". Page 206 refers us to the FPDC website for five examples. The Location Codes Lookup is complex. It appears the requirement is to reverse engineer requirements of this "wizard". This is inconsistent with Fixed Price contracting</p>	<p>An amendment will include the examples and will be issued. For program generated reports such as the example, the awardee will have access to the source program.</p>
257		J6 - Glossary	<p>Page 214. USER FRIENDLY definition missing. Please provide a clear requirement definition.</p>	<p>See revised glossary.</p>
258		J7 - Evaluations.	<p>This comment section intentionally left almost blank.</p>	<p>Past performance questionnaires are completed and submitted by the Offeror's references.</p>
259		J9 - IAE Conceptual Interconnections.	<p>This section is inconsistent and imprecise. For example, there are no hexagons (six-sided figures).</p>	<p>This is a conceptual representation of how FPDS-NG fits into the Integrated Acquisition Environment.</p>

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
260		Section M	Page 373 "\$5,600,000" for development and implementation. This is in contrast to page 31. Please confirm the funding available in each year to include option years of the proposed contract.	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p> <p>There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an</p>
261			Will the FPDS-NG data center be co-located with the current FPDS?	This depends on the business approach selected.
262			What standards will be applied to determine if the "development" phase can be judged complete?	When the Government determines that FPDS-NG meets all of its requirements, then development is considered complete.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
263		Section L.8:	The page limit for Volume I Technical Proposal is 75 pages including staffing. May resumes be submitted separately for key and other personnel, for information purposes, or must all staff information be provided within the Volume I limit?	The page limit includes all material that is required for proposal submission in Volume I.
264			Could you provide examples of what is meant by the statement: "Provide automated standard processes to return receipts and error messages to agencies that submit procurement data. Agencies will be able to choose from among the standard processes." (Page 9)?	Prior to proposal evaluations, the Government will not assess or comment on any technology, tool, or application related to this solicitation. The requirements and any associated constraints are clearly stated in the RFP.
265			Would you consider leveraging existing Oracle investment and allow for temporary co-existence of two databases (new one and old one) ?	The Offeror has flexibility in preparing his offer. See L.9.2.1. The Offeror may propose to assume responsibility for operation and maintenance of the current FPDS.
266			What are your current costs for data collection?	The operation and maintenance cost for FPDC is \$1.7 million. Estimates for the Government-wide cost range from \$18 million to \$20 million.
267			If an external system owner is required to make modifications to their system for integration into the Federal Procurement System who will bear the cost? The contractor or the external system owner?	The Government assumes the question refers to Government agencies that feed data into FPDS as "external system owners." Agencies bear the cost for any modifications required to their systems.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
268			What platforms and backed systems (i.e. databases) are used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. CCR / Business Partner Network</li> <li>b. Automatic Contract Writing system</li> <li>c. E-Catalog / GWAC Web Site</li> <li>d. FedBizOpps Web Site</li> <li>e. Purchase Card Data</li> </ul>	The Government has no knowledge about the platforms or backend systems requested.
269			Could we have a clearer diagram of "J9 ? IAE Conceptual Interconnections" (Page 222), as the one in the document is hard to read?	Another copy will be posted.
270			(blank)	(blank)

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
271			Does the \$5,600,000 ceiling price relate to the first year development and implementation effort only, or to the three year contract including development, implementation and two years of operation? If the ceiling applies to all three years, how would the government's cost associated with Business Approach 3 and Business Approach 4 described in section B.2 (page 2) be factored into the ceiling?	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p> <p>There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an</p>
272		Section C.2.1(J) (page 14)	Section C.2.1(J) (page 14) mentions NIACAP and that "security costs shall be given a separate accounting..." Does security cost need separate accounting in the cost proposal?	Yes.
273			The graphic depicting the IAE interconnections in Attachment J9 – IAE Conceptual Interconnections is illegible. Will you provide a clear copy of this?	Another copy will be posted.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
274			Can you provide more detailed information on the e-Authentication gateway discussed in Attachment J11 – eGov Architectural Requirements?	The information provided is the only information available. The interoperability standard will be provided when finalized.
275			<p>Would you please clarify which web browser versions that the web tier of the application must be compatible with? For example, in section C.2.1 (B) you state:</p> <p>“Web-based interfaces shall support commonly used browsers (such as Netscape 4.0, Internet Explorer 4.0, and Opera 5.0) without active components of any kind (including plug-ins, JavaScript, java applets, or scripting support), or use of persistent cookies. Documentation may be made available in formats in addition to HTML.”</p> <p>But then this is contradicted in Attachment J11 – eGov Architectural Requirements under Web Browser-Based User Interface where you state:</p> <p>“Provide a browser-based user interface that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is compatible with Microsoft Internet Explorer browser version 5.5 or later and with Netscape Navigator browser version 6.x or later.”</li> </ul>	<p>The statement on page 236 is the minimum requirement, but FPDS-NG has a more stringent requirement.</p> <p>The requirement in Section C has been revised.</p> <p>The Offeror must propose a set of standards that will be used in designing the browser-based interfaces and the testing that will be conducted to ensure the interfaces are functional in a broad range of browsers.</p> <p>Changing the HTML standard that is used would be a result of the Government's change control process.</p>
276			Attachment J11 states that “Any proposed portal shall be deployed using either a UNIX or Windows 2000 (or later) operating system.” There are several variants of UNIX, not all of which are branded with the word “UNIX” (e.g., Solaris, AIX and Linux). Are these variants of UNIX acceptable?	Any commercially supported version of UNIX will be considered.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
277			What are the government's requirements for the help desk (i.e., number of calls for each year)?	The Government has no historical data to project the number and type of calls for help desk support.
278			What is the estimated increase or decrease of help desk calls from year to year over the total 8 years of the contract period?	The Government has no historical data to project the number and type of calls for help desk support.
279		Section C.1.2 (Background)	Section C.1.2 (Background), states that "The FPDS-Next Generation (FPDS-NG) must enable more efficient electronic data collection and reporting by providing a real-time, online data collection facility and eventually eliminating the text batch interface..." By what date must the text batch interface be eliminated?	Not all the Federal agencies reporting to FPDS-NG will have machine-to-machine capability when FPDS-NG becomes operational. As the federal agencies reporting to FPDS-NG develop machine-to-machine capability, batch reporting capability will be phased out. New batch requirements are not anticipated. The awardee will not be responsible for elimination of the text batch interface.
280			The Integration Layer section in Appendix J11 states that "The integration capabilities shall include flexible transport, routing, and data translation services based on message/integration broker and XML Web Services architectures." Must the approach include both a message/integration broker architecture and an XML Web Services architecture, or can either of the approaches be used?	Both must be supported.
281		Section C.2.1 (E)	Section C.2.1 (E) states that the system should "Provide the capability to include data from other systems when such systems have exposed the data for query." What is the scope of these other systems, how many are there, and what will be their method to "expose the data for query" to FPDS-NG?	The Government envisions a capability where a query on FPDS-NG can pull in data from other systems. There are currently open standards technologies that permit this.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
282		Section C.2.1 (I)	Section C.2.1 (I) states that verification activities may include "field audits". Please characterize what is meant by "field audits" in the context of the required validation activities.	The quality assurance plan may include visits to Government sites and physically reviewing records.
283			What, if any, are the GISRA compliance requirements for FPDS-NG?	The applicable security requirements are specified in J16 and documents referenced therein. GSA must assess security and report on it using the Special Publication NIST 800-26 Self Assessment Guide.
284		Attachment J11	Attachment J11 states that "Projects shall be capable of interoperating with the FirstGov Portal". Please clarify the nature of this interoperability.	To the extent that IAE projects require or provide portal services, those services must be compatible with FirstGov. FPDS-NG has no requirement for portal services.
285			How many different schema changes are there across the 20+years of historical data?	The information is provided in Attachment J14.
286			The main goal of the project is to reduce costs, what are the current costs?	The operation and maintenance cost for FPDC is \$1.7 million. Estimates for the Government-wide cost range from \$18 million to \$20 million.
287		Page 4	Are the errors in batch processing due to the receipt of bad data from the source systems?	Errors arise for many reasons that result in errors in the data received by FPDS.
288		Page 5	Can you elaborate on what is meant by deleting data described in the data dictionary? Is this the same as deleting the partially completed entries?	The phrase "described in the data dictionary" is used to qualify all the verbs "adding, changing, saving partially completed entries, and deleting".
289			If data does not pass the validation rules, will the entire batch be rejected, or only the individual record?	The Offeror must propose a design.
290			Do we need to archive deleted transactions (maintain a record of them)?	The Government's requirement is that data may not be physically deleted.
291			Is the dynamic customization to the windows as described on page 7 behind the scenes, or will each user be able to customize the screens they use?	Users will not be able to customize data entry screens.

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No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
292		Page 8	If the user exits without correcting errors, should the record be saved in the suspense file?	The Government's requirement is that records that contain errors must be available for correction.
293			Is the machine-to-machine interface utilizing the standard EDI transaction set?	No. The Offeror must propose a design.
294		Page 9	On page 9 it states that agencies may correct records via the browser based interface within 10 business days, on page 8 the RFP states suspended transactions will be deleted after four weeks – which is the requirement? Is page 9 referring to just correcting data that may have passed the validation rules, but is incorrect?	"Suspended" transactions are a different category. A user of the direct key entry system may choose to "suspend" a transaction before completing and submitting it. A transaction that contains errors is not "suspended."
295		Page 10	What "other systems" would make their data available for queries?	The Government envisions a capability where a query on FPDS-NG can pull in data from other systems including the IAE systems (see Attachment J9) and any other compatible system.
296			In what "other" formats would a user need to download reports? (text, HTML, rich text, spreadsheets, and databases are listed)	The Offeror is required to propose a specific solution. The Government requires that all reports be available in all formats contracted for.
297		Page 10	"Reports should allow for a choice of acronyms, abbreviations, codes or plain language text" – Is this for the standard reports only, or does it include the ad hoc queries?	Both must be supported.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
298		Page 10	The Report Check Out Process – Do the users require the capability to save the modified reports? Do these modifications need to be made available to other users? Does “check-out” mean that a document management application must be included in the final solution?	<p>Users must be able to save queries. Saving report parameters could be considered a form of saving queries.</p> <p>The Government does not have a requirement for users to be able to share reports and queries.</p> <p>The Government requires an efficient procedure for users to select reports, prepare queries, have them executed, and obtain the results.</p>
299		Page 15	If foreign currencies are displayed to the users, what will the exchange rate be based on? Is there a standard table or source of this data that must be retrieved on a daily or more frequent basis?	The Offeror must propose the method and source for this information.
300			Will the help desk need to support all users or only GSA/Government users?	All users.
301			Will users be able to submit errors or help requests on-line via the web site?	The Offeror must design a solution.
302			Who will staff the help desk, GSA or contracted resources?	That depends on the Business Approach selected (see Section B).
303			Are there any restrictions on the software used to manage the help desk (e.g. Remedy)?	No.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
304			Is there buy-in by the three agencies that GSA wants to be interoperable with? If we require these agencies to implement a change in order to achieve interoperability, what kind of influence does GSA have to enforce that this change is made?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The interface with CCR/Business Partner Network is defined (see the CCR.gov web site). The interface with the eCatalog/GWAC web site will be provided. For the agency contract writing systems, the awardee will specify the interface and provide interoperability tools specified.</p> <p>The agencies have been providing data to FPDS for more than 20 years. They are committed to continuing to do so. There is also a statutory requirement to do so. Further, this initiative grew from the Procurement Executives Council's vision.</p>
305		Page 19	When will the inspection/validation be executed? Is this post October 1, 2003? Then NIACAP will require one month to validate the system?	Inspection and validation will occur prior to system acceptance. The time period for NIACAP reviews is the projected internal processing time.
306			Deliverables – “Help Desk Service” does this mean an operational help desk with all of the necessary hardware and software in place (e.g. a call center)?	This is the type of service the Government envisions.
307			Where will the work be performed? At a GSA site or another location?	That depends on the Business Approach selected (see Section B).

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
308			Is the budget of 5.6 million, listed on page 31, for the first year (by the implementation date of October 1, 2003), for the three year base period, or for all years (up to 8)?	<p>The Government funding for development and implementation up to and including system acceptance is \$5.6M (see CLIN 0001). Proposed costs within this limit shall include all contractor cost for development or service (for example, incentives, hardware, software, personnel, associated services, etc). The solicitation suggested 4 business approaches but the contractor may also propose other approaches. The Offeror must propose out year operation and maintenance cost for Business approaches 1-3. The Government will fund operation and maintenance costs based upon the negotiated contract (see CLIN 0003).</p> <p>There is a 3 year base period that starts with the date of contract award. The base period includes the time to develop and implement FPDS-NG and some operation and maintenance time (from acceptance through the end of the 3 year period). The contractor may earn up to 5 one-year award term extensions of the base period. The Government may exercise options in accordance with FAR clause 52.217-9 in lieu of award terms within the maximum 8 year term. The exercise of such options is not subject to an</p>
309			When will the contract be awarded?	The anticipated award date is January 2003.
310			Please clarify with regards to ad-hoc queries; will end users be constructing these queries or, will they be submitting requirements to the system owners for them to create?	Both must be supported.

## Responses to Final RFP

No.	Company Name	RFP Section	Question	Response
311		Question 20 - 1.0 (line 22)	Re: Question 20 -1.0 (line 22) of the fdps093002finalnotes.xls file states "anyone can buy a copy of the database or a custom report". I've checked on the fdps.gov website and can see it's available for just \$60 per copy. Is this summary information? We need to either receive a copy of that data or determine what is delivered on that CD-ROM.	The Offeror may purchase a copy of the CD from the FPDC.
312			Can you provide metrics on real-time versus batch transactions? (i.e. what is the percentage out of the 10-13 million transactions that will be input by users?)	<p>The Government has no historical data to project the batch vs. machine-to-machine balance.</p> <p>The current FPDS does not support machine-to-machine data input. Approximately 2% of transactions are entered using the internet-based data entry system; the remainder are batch..</p>
313			Can you provide a breakdown of "reports only" users versus input users?	The Government has no historical data to project the balance. All users may request reports. Input will be by agency contracting staff.
314			How many expected reports transactions do you expect each year?	The Government has no historical data to project this.
315			What is the average number of concurrent users?	This is a new system, so there is no historical data to project from. The Government's requirement is stated in C.2.1.H).
316			The Q&A document (item #19) states that the data from the old system must be converted into the new system. However, the solicitation appears to state that the award winner is to provide "access" to the old data (pg 11). Please confirm if the old data must be converted and/or to define what is meant by "access" to the old data.	The Government requires access to all query-able data. The methodology for providing access is at the Offeror's discretion.

## Responses to Final RFP

<b>No.</b>	<b>Company Name</b>	<b>RFP Section</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
317			What kind of systems are the feeder systems? Oracle or other?	The Government does not have information about the specific products used in agency systems.