

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION/MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT			1. CONTRACT ID CODE		PAGE 1 OF <u>7</u>	
2. AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION NO.		3. EFFECTIVE DATE	4. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQ. NO.		5. PROJECT NO. (If applicable)	
0002		07/18/08				
6. ISSUED BY: CODE		7. ADMINISTERED BY: (If other than 6.)		CODE		
Department of Education Federal Student Aid, FSA Acquisitions Union Center Plaza, RM 91F1 830 First Street, NE Washington, DC, 20202-5405						
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTRACTOR (No., street, county, State, and Zip Code)			(X)	9A. AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION NO.		
All Offerors			X	ED-08-R-0048R		
				9B. DATED (SEE ITEM 11)		7/10/2008
				10A. MODIFICATION CONTRACT/ORDER NO.		
CODE		FACILITY CODE		10B. DATED (SEE ITEM 11)		
11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS						
The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers [] is extended, [X] is NOT extended. Offers must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by one of the following methods: (a) By completing Items 8 and 15, and returning <u>1</u> copies of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or (c) By separate letter or telegram which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change an offer already submitted, such change may be made by telegram or letter, provided each telegram or letter makes reference to the solicitation and the amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.						
12. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA (If required)						
13. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO MODIFICATION OF CONTRACTS/ORDERS. IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14.						
CHECK ONE	A. THIS CHANGE ORDER IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO: (Specify authority) THE CHANGES SET FORTH IN ITEM 14 ARE MADE IN THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. IN ITEM 10A.					
	changes in paying office, appropriation data, etc.) SET FORTH IN ITEM 14, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF FAR 43.103(b).					
	C. THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY OF:					
	D. OTHER (Specify type of modification and authority)					
E. IMPORTANT: Contractor [] is NOT, [X] is required to sign this document and return <u>1</u> copy(ies) to the issuing office.						
14. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION (Organized by UCF section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible.)						
This amendment is issued to respond to the Clarification questions received.						
Reminder: Offers that fail to comply with the Instructions to Offerors including formatting will not be evaluated.						
Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in Item 9A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remains unchanged and in full force and effect.						
15A. NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER (Type or Print)			16A. NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or Print)			
			Dega Hussen			
15B. CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR		15C. DATE SIGNED	16B. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		16C. DATE SIGNED	
			/s/		07/15/08	
(Signature of person authorized to sign)			(Signature of Contracting Officer)			

**RFP #ED-08-R-0048R
Responses to Clarification Questions**

Request for Proposal (RFP) #ED-08-R-0048R: Financial Management Systems Support Services

#	Page(s)	Clarification Questions	Government Responses
General			
1		Will there be Orals for this RFP?	No.
2		There are several forms within the PDF'd RFP, can you please provide the embedded forms separately, and in their original format, (i.e., Excel, Word, etc.)	There were no embedded forms in the RFP (SF1449); rather all referenced attachments (1A, 2A through 6A) were posted on FedBizOps along with the Appendices (Attachement 3A).
3		"The government anticipates the award of an indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity, hybrid: fixed priced, fixed price labor hour, and time and materials performance based contract . . ." However, on page 45 Section VI. B. the RFP states: "The Government contemplates award of Firm Fixed Price, Time and Materials or labor-hour type of contract . . ." Please clarify the type of contract to be awarded. If it is an IDIQ contract, does the government intend to issue a multiple or single award IDIQ contract?	The government intends to issue a single IDIQ contract award against the first task order (Task Order I: Transition of FMS Operation Services) will be issued on a Firm-fixed price basis.
4		Because it's 100% set-aside can the Small Business have a teaming arrangement or Partnering with a Large Business?	There is no restriction on teaming arrangement or partnering with other than small businesses.
5		Are Representations and Certifications required as part of the proposal submission from all subcontractors?	No.
C. Pricing Schedule: Pages 5 through 7			
6	4	Are each of the 9 labor categories to be priced for each CLIN (1 through 4) on the Pricing Schedule?	Only if the offeror determines that all required labor categories are needed to perform under CLINs.
7	6	Do they want level of effort pricing or just labor category pricing for CLIN 4. And will the pricing for labor categories be the pricing that will be the basis for future task orders for CLIN4.	Offerors should provide labor rates (burdened onsite/offsite) for all categories under all CLINs listed under the Section C. Level of effort for each Task Order should be proposed in the Pricing Template worksheet (Attachment 2A of the solicitation)
8	6	The RFP requests labor categories and rates for CLIN 0004, however the government has not provided a statement of work for CLIN 0004 to serve as the basis for providing these labor categories and rates. Please provide a statement of work for this task so that offerors may determine any additional labor categories required.	See response to previous question
IV. Addendum to FAR 52.212-1 and 52.212-2 – Instruction to Offerors and Evaluation – Commercial Items (SEPT 2006): Pages 31 through 35			
9	31	Can you provide a copy of a Schedule Matrix, we assume this is a Project Plan, perhaps done in MS Project? Please advise.	It is a project plan. No example will be provided.

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10	32	(M)ust the prime contractor possess 3 past performances for each CLIN, a total of 12 past performance references? Or can the prime with its subcontractors collectively satisfy the 12 past performance requirements?	As stated in the Instructions to Offerors for Factor 2, "1. Offerors and, if applicable, subcontractor shall complete the Client Reference Form (Attachment 5A) for each client (government or non-government)." Offerors should keep in mind the requirements of FAR 52.219-14.
11	32	"Past Performance References". How can we get this? Is it necessary that we have to pay D&B for this and provide them names and e-mail addresses of 12 references? Is there any other method to get these? How can we use Attachment 5A "Client Reference Form"? Could you please explain me how to use this form for the proposal? How many forms do we have to attach?	Follow instructions outlined in Section IV, Paragraph D.2: Factor 2: Past Experience / Past Performance Instructions on registering for D&B Open Rating service is outlined in Enclosure 2 of the solicitation. No other method will be utilized for past performance/past experience. Attachment 5A is completed by offeror to describe in detail how the cited references is similiar in size, scope, and complexity to the government's requirements as articulated in this solicitation. The number of forms attached is depended on how many references are submitted to demonstrate past performance without exceeding the maximum of 12.
12	32	If the Offeror and subcontractors (if any) cannot submit the Past Performance Evaluation Report with the proposal submission because the report has not yet been generated, will the Offeror's proposal be considered non-compliant?	The instructions provided on page 32 for this factor are unchanged.
13	32	The RFP states, "Offers and, if applicable, subcontractors shall utilize Duns & Bradstreet's Open Rating....." Under what conditions are subcontractor's required to (or not required to) utilize Duns & Bradstreet's Open Rating?	Subcontractor(s) may need to utilize D&B's Open Rating in order to comply with the required number of references per CLIN (Maximum 12).
14	33	If the offeror does not have a letter from a cognizant federal agency as proof of an approved EVMS; but, has a plan to achieve one, will this be considered non-responsive? If so, would Federal Student Aid consider removing the following sentence "An Offeror may not rely on a proposed subcontractor's EVMS to satisfy this proposal element" to allow the prime to partner with a company with a proven EVMS system that meets the requirements of the solicitation? (found on page 33, Section D.3, third paragraph in the RFP). If the answer is no and the Offeror cannot provide a signed letter on agency letterhead certifying an EVMS, will the Offeror's proposal be considered non-responsive?	The instructions provided on pages 32 & 33 for this factor are unchanged. See response to question #15 for what is required if an approved system is not in place.

RFP #ED-08-R-0048R
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15	33	<p>The government is requiring proof of an approved Earned Value Management System (EVMS) with a signed letter on the cognizant federal agency or department's letterhead. The government also states that an Offeror may not rely on a proposed subcontractor's EVMS to satisfy this proposal effort.</p> <p>A) Is this an accurate statement?</p> <p>B) If not, can the Offeror provide a detailed EVMS plan that has "not" already been approved by a federal agency or department, or can the Offeror use a subcontractor's approved EVMS plan?</p>	<p>As stated in the Instructions to Offerors for Factor 3, "Proof is a copy of a signed letter on the cognizant federal agency or department's letterhead certifying the offeror's EVMS as being compliant with the Federal Acquisition Regulations, the completed worksheet (Attachment 4A), and the following sample EVM documents: work authorization document, control account plan, and variance analysis.</p> <p>(or)</p> <p>Detailed plan for establishing an EVMS shall include at minimum work breakdown structure (WBS) at Level 3 with identified resources and activity duration; project schedule (MS Project 2003); WBS data dictionary; and completed worksheet (Attachment 4A).</p>
16	33	<p>D.3 Factor 3: Corporate Capability Sub-Factor A states: "...Offeror and, if applicable, subcontractor shall describe its management plan in sufficient detail. This plan should include, at a minimum the following: Proof of an approved Earned Value Management System (EVMS) by a cognizant federal agency or department."</p> <p>The inclusion of the requirement for a SB to have an approved EVMS limits the competition pool to mostly non-SB qualifying businesses. Will the Government consider lifting the EVMS requirement or modifying the EVMS requirement to allow businesses to work towards getting an approved system in place, by time of contract award?</p> <p>Alternatively, if the government is unable to provide a statement of work at this time, will the chosen offeror be permitted to propose additional labor categories and rates at the time when an RFP and statement of work are provided post award of the IDIQ?</p>	<p>No. See response to question #15 for what is required if an approved system is not in place.</p> <p>Offerors are not precluded from proposing additional labor categories under any CLIN.</p>
17	33	<p>In order to comply with "Proof of an approved Earned Value Management System (EVMS) by a cognizant federal agency or department... in D.3 Factor 3 Corporate Capability, can we use a small business teaming partner with a long EVM track record and solid EVM tools and program that is in the process of becoming certified? We have an EVM strategy and tools in place and are awaiting certification if that would suffice. Standard duration is approximately three years to obtain the required certification?</p>	<p>No. See response to question #15 for what is required if an approved system is not in place.</p>

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18	33	<p>We do not currently have a qual which includes a certified EVMS. However, Our Proposed Project Manager has implemented an EVMS on another Federal government contract and one of our subcontractors has a qual with a certified EVMS.</p> <p>If we propose to implement an EVMS as part of the Transition Task will this satisfy the requirement in the RFP?</p>	<p>See response to question #15 for what is required if an approved system is not in place.</p>
19	33	<p>Section IV.D.3. Factor 3: Corporate Capability (continued): "Proof is a copy of a signed letter on the cognizant federal agency or department's letterhead certifying the offeror's EVMS as being compliant with the Federal Acquisition Regulations, the completed worksheet (Attachment 4A), and the following sample EVM documents: work authorization document, control account plan, and variance analysis.</p> <p>Since EVM documents are lengthy, can these documents be included as an Appendix?</p>	<p>The government agrees to increase the page limit for Technical Proposal from 70 to 100 pages.</p> <p>I.A Corporate Capability (Not to exceed 50) and I.B Technical Capability/Staffing Complement - By Task Order (Not to exceed 50).</p> <p>The rest of the Volume Structure remains unchanged.</p>
20	33	<p>D.3 Factor 3: Corporate Capability, Sub-factor A: Proof of an approved Earned Value Management System (EVMS) by a cognizant federal agency or department (see next page for more instructions). Please verify that the following FAR section (from FAR 52.234-X1 Notice of Earned Value Management System as provided in RFP Amendment 1) is applicable to this RFP:</p>	<p>Amendment #0001 to this solicitation dated July 17, 2008 was issued to provide Earned Value Management Policy Guidance document referenced previously as Attachment 3A Appendix O. It did not change the government's intent to evaluate "evaluate the proposal information required by FAR 52.234-3 – Notice of Earned Value Management System –Post Award IBR (JUL 2006)."</p>
21	34	<p>Last paragraph, "All proposal revisions shall be submitted as a complete electronic resubmission of the affected file. Electronic resubmissions shall conform to the guidance provided herein. Each revision (electronic page change) shall be identified by date and by revision number."</p> <p>Please clarify this instruction. We assume this would be in the case of a Best and Final clarification?</p>	<p>As stated on page 31, "(t)he Government reserves the right to conduct discussions and to permit Offerors to revise their proposals if the Contracting Officer determines them to be necessary." Therefore the last paragraph on page 34 (see below) is applicable only if the government exercises this right.</p> <p><i>All proposal revisions shall be submitted as a complete electronic resubmission. Electronic resubmissions shall conform to the guidance provided herein. Each revision (electronic page change) shall be identified by date and by revision number.</i></p>
22	34	<p>"Hard copies must be single-spaced, double-sided on 8 ½ x 11-inch pages of 10-point font. For purpose of page count, a double-side page will count as single page." Using Volume I as an example, please clarify that the stated page limit of 70 equates to 140 pages of proposal content.</p>	<p>Double-sided page will count as single (1) page. Total page limit is 70 pages.</p>

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23	34	<p>Are there any restrictions on type of font?</p> <p>Can titles of graphics/figures/tables be in a different (but clear and readable) font?</p> <p>Can headings be a different size and different font from the main body/text?</p>	<p>There is no restriction on font type; however, offeror should use the selected font throughout its proposal (All volumes).</p> <p>Offeror's selected font should be used in graphics/figures/tables. If the resulting graphic/figure/table is ineligible; then the font size can be increased to 12 point, only for these items.</p> <p>No, headings must be in the selected main body/text font and in 10-point font size.</p>
24	34	<p>Paragraph reads: "For both electronic and hard copy, the proposal shall be readable in MS Word 2000 or Adobe Acrobat 7.0 Professional except for the Pricing Volume, which is in MS Excel 2000."</p> <p>Please confirm that only the Pricing Schedule and Attachment 2a should be in Excel with financial data and forms in PD or Word as appropriate.</p>	Confirmed
25	35	Volume Structure. Below the table is the following: **Excluding copies of the offeror's key personnel resumes. Please clarify what this is in reference to, as the table does not contain any items marked by two asterisks.	This exclusion applies to Volume I: Section I.B Technical Capability/Staffing Complement - By Task Order (Not to exceed 50): I.B.1 Methodology & Approach and I.B.2 Staffing Complement
26	35	Volume Structure: Which volume should the Pricing Schedule-pages 6-7 of the RFP (not pricing template) be inserted, Volume III or Volume IV?	As stated on the top of page 34, The Pricing Schedule (Section C) is part of the Contracts Forms ; thus should be included in Volume IV, Section A.
Attachments 1A - Amended Statement of Work: Pages 1 through 104			
27		Please confirm the contract type for task orders 1 through 4?	<p>Task Order I: Transition of FMS Operation Services - Firm-fixed price</p> <p>Task Order II: FMS Operations (Optional) - Firm-fixed price</p> <p>Task Order III: FMS Application Security Management (Optiona) - Fixed Labor Hour</p> <p>Task Order IV: CheckFree Operations (Optional) - Fixed Labor Hour</p>
28	63 -89	<p>What do you mean by the parenthetical statement optional after task Order 2, 3 and 4?</p> <p>Task Order II – FMS Operations (Optional) Page - 63</p> <p>Task Order III – FSA FMS Application Security Management (Optional) Page-82</p> <p>Task Order IV –CheckFree Operations (Optional) Page- 89</p>	These optional task orders may be exercised on the government's sole discretion and subject to availability of funding.

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29	63-89	The Department has used the term "Optional" in several places for Task Orders II, III, and IV. Please clarify what it means for these task orders to be "optional."	See response to previous question.
Attachments 3A - Appendices C through U			
30		RFP Attachment (3A, Appendix) O states that EVM is not required for steady state phases or systems. By placing the EVMS requirement as Sub-Factor A - The Government is weighing the EVMS requirement unusually high for an O&M contract. This requirement is unclear, please advise.	This requirement is necessary to ensure that successful offeror can perform task orders issued against CLIN 4 by having an approved EVMS system or agreed-upon plan to establish one within a reasonable time after award.