Solicitation No. BBG50-R-11-0028 is being amended to provide answers to questions. The answers to potential offeror's questions are listed below:

Question No. 1: Does the government intend on increasing the requirements to including message blocking and filtering capabilities or will this procurement be strictly for aggregation?

Answer No. 1: The agency requirements are stated in the solicitation. No additional services for the future are contemplated.

Question No. 2: Does the government have a pre-determined contract ceiling for the program?

Answer No. 2: This is a competitive requirement and budgetary information is not disclosed.

Question No. 3: Will the system/vendor chosen be the preferred vendor for BBG for other countries. If so is there a list of other countries of interest?

Answer No. 3: The agency requirements are stated in the solicitation. No additional services for the future are contemplated.

Question No. 4: Do we have to formally submit a bid intent letter?

Answer No. 4: No. Please see sections (vi, viii, ix and xi) in the notice for what is needed for proposal submission.

Question No. 5: Is there an incumbent for this service (note the SOW mentions SMS Blast)?

Answer No. 5: Yes.

Question No. 6: What are the follow-on opportunities for use with other countries?

Answer No. 6 : The agency requirements are stated in the solicitation. No additional services for the future are contemplated.

Question No. 7: Should we dimension our system for growth beyond Cuba?

Answer No. 7: The agency requirements are stated in the solicitation. No additional services for the future are contemplated.

Question No. 8: What is the required Service Level Agreement (SLA) beyond messaging throughout requirements?

Answer No. 8: The agency requirements are stated in the solicitation. No additional services for the future are contemplated. The contract terms and conditions are included in the attachment entitled "RFP".

Question No. 9: Is the RFP submission to BBG preferable through email or hard copy? If email, please supply an email address for the contacts for document submission to BBG.

Answer No. 9: Please note that section (xi) in the notice states that oral, faxed or emailed proposals will not be accepted and all proposals must be sent via courier or overnight delivery and must be received before the stated deadline.

Question No. 10: We did not see any instructions to offerors that provides proposal submission requirements such as format, length, fonts, etc. Can you please provide proposal format requirements?

Answer No. 10: There are no specific format guidelines or restrictions.

Question No. 11: The RFP states that the system includes techniques for manipulation and keyword substitution on individual messages. Will the new keywords be provided by OCB or do we need to be able to create/generate new keywords within our system and have them automatically substitute them in a standard message? Please clarify.

Answer No. 11: Either way is acceptable to the agency.

Question No. 12: We are concerned with the legality of sending these types of notifications to people in another country. Does the US government take all legal responsibility for these messages? Are there legal considerations a vendor would have to be aware of on these kinds of broadcasts?

Answer No. 12: The Agency assumes responsibility for the content of the messages. The Contractor assumes all responsibility under this requirement and should consider all aspects of this requirement before submitting an offer.

Question No. 13: Are there any special consideration for sending notifications to cell phone users in Cuba that we will need to abide by? No call lists, unlisted numbers, etc that we need to be aware of?

Answer No. 13: The Agency is not aware of such restrictions at this time. If restrictions do come to the Agency's attention, they will be addressed thereafter.

Question No. 14: We request clarification of the term "messages." Transmission of messages to Cuba require the transmission of two billable messages. The first message is with normal ASCII characters and the second message is with local characters. So is the Government's requirement for the transmission of source messages, e.g. 24,000 messages a week or for the delivered (and charged) messages, e.g. which would be 48,000 messages a week for 24,000 source messages?

Answer No. 14: The term "message" constitutes a singular SMS message, containing content of the Agency's choosing, to be transmitted in a single delivery to one cellphone. The ASCII and Local Characters source messages described in the question shall be transmitted in a method whereas its delivery is a single message to the source. Using this definition, the message shall be billed as ONE of the 24,000 estimated messages

All other terms and conditions of Solicitation No. BBG50-R-11-0028 remain unchanged.