



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
ACQUISITION AND GRANTS OFFICE  
1325 East West Hwy, Room 11413  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

October 3, 2014

TO: All Interested Responders

FROM: Tania Gates, Contracting Officer

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) #10172014 –  
Comments to draft Statement of Objectives and Evaluation Criteria

This is the second RFI released by NOAA's Office of Acquisition and Grants (AGO) with regards to the NOAA Big Data Initiative. RFI number ST-1330-14-RP-0039 was posted to the Federal Business Opportunities Website on February 21, 2014. This RFI is focused on the draft Statement of Objectives (SOO). At the Big Data Industry Day on October 17, NOAA will review the draft SOO and offer industry an opportunity to ask questions. All comments and suggestions to the SOO will be collected in the excel comment and suggestion sheet included in the Federal Business Opportunities posting and will be due on **October 24, 2014 by 3:00 PM EDT**.

If you would like to register to attend the industry day on October 17, please email Patrick Curry, Contract Specialist at [patrick.curry@noaa.gov](mailto:patrick.curry@noaa.gov) no later than **October 15, 2014 at 12:00 PM EDT**. When submitting an email to register for the event, please include "Big Data Industry Day Registration" in the subject line of the email and include your organization's name, the names of the people attending, and their email address and phone number.

Due to seating limitations, there will be a **limit of two attendees per organization**. An agenda for the Industry Day is included as Attachment A. There will not be remote access available for the industry day, though any presentations and notes provided will be posted to the Federal Business Opportunities website by October 21, 2014. The NOAA building is located within walking distance of the Silver Spring metro station on the red line. Parking at NOAA is limited, but you are welcome to park in the NOAA parking garage. The Wayne Avenue parking garage is also available as parking in the NOAA parking garage is limited.



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When reviewing the documents, NOAA asks that you consider the following challenges and keep these in mind when commenting and as we move forward in the process. These challenges serve as a framework for the larger problem we are trying to solve with this initiative. The expectation from NOAA is that by providing the requirements early in the process we can engage with industry and solicit their help for feedback.

1. Is a no-cost contract a viable business arrangement for this SOO?
  - a. What risks or issues do respondents anticipate encountering in building this business model?
  - b. Do the requirements specified in this SOO enable respondents to build a business model to recover costs?
  - c. If you propose to recover your cost, is your cost efficiency in providing access an appropriate criterion for government selection?
2. The Government anticipates multiple partners, selected based upon a “best value” evaluation.
  - a. The Government is determining how to qualitatively assess the technical, business, and risk elements of proposals. Given the innovative nature of the potential partnerships, the Government is seeking insights to determine what may limit potential solutions in a “best value” evaluation, specifically in the areas of:
    - i. Inciting creative uses and innovative approaches to spur economic growth;
    - ii. Ensuring equal access on equal terms;
    - iii. Supporting NOAA’s compliance with the US Open Data Policy (Executive Order 13642 and OMB Memorandum M-13-13);
    - iv. Providing a self-sustaining business model; and
    - v. Data-handling and data curation policies for extracted data.
  - b. The Government anticipates open and active lines of communication amongst all partners to ensure fairness, transparency, cooperation, and implementation of industry standards. What recommendations do interested parties have for managing this communication?



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I would like to thank everyone for their interest in supporting NOAA. The Big Data Initiative is an exciting project that will require industry to be creative and innovative. As you will read in the draft SOO, we hope that this initiative will create jobs and spur economic growth while allowing NOAA to be as transparent as possible. We look forward to seeing you on October 17, 2014.

The complete list of attachments is listed below:

Attachment A: Big Data Industry Day Agenda  
Attachment B: Draft Big Data Statement of Objectives  
Attachment C: Comment and Suggestion Spreadsheet