

Management and Operating Contractor for the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (FNAL)

Solicitation Number: 89243123RSC000083

Questions and Answers (17 - 23)

17. Question: Who is the prime contractor for the current FNAL contract?

Answer: The prime contractor for the current FNAL contract is Fermi Research Alliance, LLC (FRA).

18. Question: Will experience at running FFRDCs that are focused on providing the research service infrastructure needed for the conduct of basic science research (including convening the international scientific community and designing, constructing, operating and maintaining large-scale, world-leading facilities) for a non-DOE agency be judged equivalently to DOE-specific experience?

Answer: It is anticipated that a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released during the fourth quarter of FY2023. Once released, the draft RFP will contain detailed information regarding how the Department plans to evaluate proposals. Interested parties are encouraged to review and provide comments on the draft evaluation criteria during that period.

19. Question: Capital project execution is paramount to the success of any National Laboratory M&O contract. Given the size and complexity of Fermilab's capital project forecast, how will the successful bidder be evaluated as successful?

Answer: It is anticipated that a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) will be released during the fourth quarter of FY2023. Once released, the draft RFP will contain detailed information regarding how the Department plans to evaluate proposals. Interested parties are encouraged to review and provide comments on the draft evaluation criteria during that period.

20. Question: In reference to paragraph (b)(3)(iii) Other Programs of the draft Statement of Work (SOW), what specific major contractual or binding agreements, including those with non-DOE sponsors and private entities, are in place with other programs or activities at the time of the RFP?

Answer: Over 99% of Fermilab work is sponsored by DOE. A list of Non-Proprietary User Agreements is available in the document library on the competition website, as well as a link to the International Energy Commitments.

21. Question: In reference to paragraph (d)(2)(iii) Purchasing Management of the draft Statement of Work (SOW), is the laboratory management system for purchasing in place at the time of the SOW approved by DOE?

Answer: The current purchasing system has received conditional approval from DOE. It is anticipated that a final approval will be issued in advance of the anticipated contract award date.

22. Question: In reference to paragraph (d)(3) Project Management of the draft Statement of Work (SOW), is the project management system certified as required by DOE at the time of the RFP?

Answer: There is no requirement for the project management system itself to be certified. However, the Earned Value Management System was last certified in 2021. In addition, numerous internal and external project reviews are conducted that provide insight on a project-by-project basis as to its operation. While the same principles are applied, DOE's Office of Science (SC) is exempt from the DOE Order 413.3B, Program and Project Management for the Acquisition of Capital Assets. A link to the SC Project Management Processes and Procedures, which includes a tailored SC Project Decision Matrix, can be found in the Document Library section of the website.

23. Question: In terms of business processes, are there any on-going initiatives or near-term plans or agreements with commercial vendors for modernizing or upgrading existing business systems, such as for financial management, contracting, human resources, information technology or similar?

Answer: It is expected that business tools and processes will continue to be enhanced at the Laboratory concurrent with the contract competition effort. However, there are presently no major commercial vendor initiatives for modernizing or upgrading business systems.