



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science



**Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory  
Pre-Proposal Conference  
January 11, 2024**

# General Information

- This Zoom Webinar is being recorded.
- The Q&A feature has been disabled.
  - Questions must be submitted to [FNALcompetition@science.doe.gov](mailto:FNALcompetition@science.doe.gov).
- The Chat feature is available for technical issues only.

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Fermilab Site Updates
- Procurement Information
- Adjournment



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## **Site Updates**

**Roger Snyder, Site Office Manager**

**January 11, 2024**

# Site Updates

## P5 (Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel)

- P5 issued recommendations on the next 10 years of the US particle physics program within a 20 year context to High Energy Advisory Panel ([HEPAP](#)), which advises [DOE](#) and [NSF](#)  
<https://www.usparticlephysics.org/2023-p5-report/>

## Noteworthy Project Achievements

- **LBNF/DUNE-US:**
  - **SD:** excavation is now >96% complete. Concrete floor pours are nearly complete in the central cavern and recently started in the north cavern.
  - **IL:** clearing and grubbing of the near site will begin this month
- **PIP-II:** Resumed construction is a phased manner; full construction release expected this month

## Site at Large

- Initial phased resumption expected from an extended accelerator shutdown under a new ASE/SAD (this month)
- Portions of Wilson Hall expected to reopen to the public (this month)
- Public Access Control Gates (which will control access to accelerator ring areas) installed (not yet operational)
- New onsite housing rates and policies were implemented (meeting state and federal expectations)



## **Procurement Information**

**Jud Kingman, Contracting Officer**

**January 11, 2024**

# Procurement Information

- The Office of Science is committed to ensuring a fair, full and open, collaborative, and transparent process.
- Major Goals
  - Select the best contractor
  - Improve the process
  - Maximize competition
- Draft RFP feedback

# Source Evaluation Board

- Source Evaluation Board (SEB) appointed
  - DOE employees
  - Voting and non-voting members
- SEB is responsible for all aspects of the procurement
  - Developed and issued the RFP
  - Responding to questions
  - Evaluating the proposals
- Source Selection Authority (SSA) will make selection
- We are in the midst of an active contract competition. Conversations and communications between members of the SEB and prospective offerors or other interested parties outside of the official procurement process are prohibited.



# What We've Done

- Announced the intent to compete – September 8, 2022
- Launched competition website – January 24, 2023
- Issued Request for Information (RFI) – January 24, 2023
- Issued Expression of Interest (EOI) notice – February 6, 2023
- Held Informational Meeting – March 1, 2023
- Released Draft RFP – July 20, 2023
- Pre-Solicitation Meeting – August 2, 2023
- Released RFP – January 3, 2024
- Pre-Proposal Meeting – January 11, 2024 (Today)
  - Questions Due – February 23, 2024, 5PM CT
  - Proposals Due – March 4, 2024, 5PM CT



# Competition Website

<https://science.osti.gov/Acquisition-Management/M-and-O-Competitions>

- Official source of information and primary means of communication
- Contains information and direction critical to the competition and all official documents
  - RFP
  - Questions and Answers
  - Event information (e.g., registration instructions, presentations, attendee list, etc.)
  - Document library
- Interested parties are responsible for **frequently monitoring the website** for information, notices, and updates regarding the solicitation.

# RFP Overview

- Proposal Submission Instructions – Section L
  - 3-Volume proposal
  - Acknowledgment of amendments
  - Volume II page limitation, Section L.1, para. (f)
- Evaluation Factors – Sections L and M
  - Capabilities and Approach Factors
    - Science Vision and Implementation Plan
    - Laboratory Operations
    - Offeror Engagement
    - Past Performance
    - Transition Plan
  - Cost evaluation

# RFP, Changes and Highlights

- Selected changes from the Draft RFP to highlight:
  - T&Cs for Fee – Section B
  - Advance Understandings Regarding Additional Items of Allowable Costs and Other Matters – Section H.5
  - Governance Expenses – Section H.11
  - Separate Entity and Performance Guarantee – H.19
  - Proposal Submission Instructions – Section L
  - See the list of all changes with the RFP on the SEB website

# RFP, Changes and Highlights

- Performance Fee – Section B.3
  - Max fee
  - Fee base
  - Transition is cost only, no fee
  - 2025 and 2026 potential forfeiture for Key Personnel departures
- Allowability of Subcontractor Fee – Section B.4
  - Clarifying that how fee is shared within a Teaming Arrangement is at the contractor's discretion

# RFP, Changes and Highlights

- Governance and Oversight Costs – Sections H.5 and H.11
  - Revisions to H.5
    - Removing prohibition on costs of governance
    - Moving coverage of employee costs to H.11
  - Added H.11
    - Coverage is annual budget submission and cost allowability limitations for governance and parent oversight
- Separate Entity and Performance Guarantee – H.19
  - Revisions have been made for clarity
  - Must be set up solely to perform work at FNAL
  - Totally responsible for all contract activities
  - Please also see Section L, App. 3

# RFP, Changes and Highlights

- Selected Highlights in Section L
  - Electronic submission only (FedConnect) (L.1 & L.15)
  - Key persons may hold joint appointments (L.4)
  - Past Performance (L.5)
    - *Recent* definition
    - Relevant similar *Size* definition
    - Section L, App. 1, Past Performance Info Form
  - Presenters and Attendees at Oral Presentation (L.8)
  - Intent to submit a proposal (L.14) (insert date)
- Section M limited minor re-wording only

# An Important Note - System for Award Management

- Please register in SAM
- Offerors are required to be registered in SAM when submitting a proposal, and at award
- Consider processing time when registering.
- See <https://www.sam.gov> for registration information.





# Another Important Note – FedConnect.net

- Please register in FedConnect
- 12-Digit SAM UEI is required for FedConnect registration
- Consider processing time when registering
- <https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicUserRegistration.aspx> for registration information.
- Questions regarding FedConnect are addressed directly to FedConnect - instructions are on the FedConnect website

# Questions and Answers Protocol

- Questions will not be answered verbally (except today)
- A careful and deliberate Q&A process has been established to
  - Protect the integrity of the procurement process
  - Ensure the consistent transfer of information
  - SC will meaningfully consider all questions submitted prior to the cut-off but may not provide a response
  - When responding, SC may summarize or combine questions
- Questions must be submitted to [FNALcompetition@science.doe.gov](mailto:FNALcompetition@science.doe.gov)
- All responses will be prepared by the SEB and posted on the competition website
- **10 Day Cut-off (Friday, February 23, 2024)**

# Question

Regarding Section L.5(1), can DOE please confirm (or otherwise amend the RFP to expressly state) that Past Performance Information Forms (PPIF) are eligible to be submitted for any “Team member” as defined at L.1(a) of the RFP, so as to be consistent with the FAR Subpart 9.6 – Contractor Team Arrangements?

FAR 9.602 recognizes that contractor team arrangements enable team members to “complement each other’s unique capabilities”, “offer the Government the best combination of performance, cost, and delivery” and that they “may be particularly appropriate in complex research and development acquisitions.” However, because “Offeror” is defined in Section L.1(a) of this RFP to mean “the potential prime Contractor” entity only, Section L.5(1) as currently drafted appears to unfairly prevent an offeror with a teaming structure in accordance with FAR 9.601(2) from having the past performance information of its subcontractor team members evaluated under the RFP, resulting in an unfair competitive advantage for offerors whose teaming structure follows that of FAR 9.601(1). Such an advantage is inconsistent with the provisions of FAR Subpart 9.6, which provides for no such preference for teaming structures described in FAR 9.601(1) over those in (2), and otherwise states that the “Government will recognize the integrity and validity of contractor team arrangements, provided, the arrangements are identified and company relationships are fully disclosed in an offer.” Thus, as written Section L.5(1) unduly restricts competition.

# Answer

In accordance with Section L.5(1), Past Performance information Forms (PPIF) can be submitted by the Offeror (as defined in Section L.1) and/or the individual entities comprising the Offeror. This does not include other team members that may be part of the Offeror's team arrangement, as defined in FAR 9.601(2). Under Section L.5, DOE will evaluate only those entities with potential privity of contract. PPIF's submitted by team members other than those individual entities comprising the Offeror will not be evaluated in response to Section L.5. The capabilities and strengths of team members other than those individual entities comprising the Offeror may be evaluated under other evaluation factors in which they are proposed.

FAR 9.601 provides the definition of "Contractor Team Arrangement". It does not dictate or mandate a requirement to consider a Contractor Team Arrangement as part of past performance in a solicitation. DOE does not agree that Section L.5(1) unduly restricts competition. As such, no change will be made to the RFP.



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# Tentative Schedule **(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

- Pre-Proposal Conference – Today
- FNAL Site Tour – January 18, 2024
- Q&A Cut-off – February 23, 2024
- **Proposals Due – March 4, 2024, 5PM CT**
- Oral Presentations – approximately 4 weeks after receipt of proposals (notice coming o/a March 14, 2024)
- Award – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter FY24
  - Anticipate award without discussion; however, DOE reserves the right to hold discussions if deemed necessary.
- Transition – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter FY25
- Start new contract – January 1, 2025



SC appreciates your feedback over the last several months, and looks forward to continued engagement with the community, industry, and other interested parties in a transparent and collaborative manner throughout the solicitation process for an FNAL M&O contractor.

## REMINDER

Questions must be emailed to [FNALcompetition@science.doe.gov](mailto:FNALcompetition@science.doe.gov).