



Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Supply Chain Management Department

June 16, 2016

Attention: To All Offerors

Subject: **Request for Proposal (RFP) Number B617524**

Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (hereinafter called “LLNS”) requests a fixed price proposal in accordance with this RFP and the enclosed Sample Subcontract.

This RFP letter and all of its associated documents may be downloaded from the following URL. This website also contains links to other related websites and has a question and answer section.

<https://asc.llnl.gov/pathforward/>

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (hereinafter called “LLNL”) is managed by LLNS and operates under LLNS procurement policies and procedures consistent with the Prime Contract between LLNS and the United States Government, represented by the Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration (hereinafter called “DOE/NNSA”). Any award resulting from this proposal will be a Subcontract under the Prime Contract.

LLNS is representing six DOE Laboratories and the DOE as the Source Selection Authority for this RFP. See the attached Statement of Work (SOW) for a list of the Laboratories and DOE offices participating in PathForward.

LLNS reserves the right to cancel this RFP at any time prior to award without cost to LLNS. This RFP does not include provisions for the direct reimbursement of proposal preparation costs. LLNS does not intend to reimburse proposal preparation costs to any Offeror or prospective Offeror, and no party should act in reliance on any such expectation.

1.0 RFP SUMMARY

Project Title:	PathForward	
LLNL Work Site Location:	7000 East Avenue Livermore, CA 94550	
Offeror’s Questions Response Date:	07/11/16 by close of business Pacific Time	
Proposal Due Date & Time:	07/18/16 by 3:00 PM Pacific Time	
Contract Administrator:	Brandt Esser esser3@llnl.gov	Phone: 925-423-1518
Proposal Content and Format:	See Proposal Preparation Instructions section	
Proposal Evaluation:	See Proposal Evaluation section	

ESTIMATED PRICE

The working budget range for each PathForward subcontract is \$60M. However, the actual award amount may be more or less depending on the Laboratory's perceived value of the proposal(s), resulting negotiations, and appropriated funding.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Full funding to perform all of the work described in the Sample Subcontract is not currently available. LLNS anticipates funding for all of the work will become available in a manner which will allow the successful Offeror(s) to perform continuously until completion of the work. LLNS will not be liable for any delay or termination of this contract because of funding limitations beyond that expressly agreed to in the Subcontract

The number and value of awards will depend upon the proposals received and their relative value overall as noted below in PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE and below in PROPOSAL EVALUATION. That is, the DOE Laboratories have not allocated a specific percentage of the total funding to a specific technology area. The DOE Laboratories reserve the right to allocate funding to a technology area based on the relative value of the proposals received in all areas of technology.

2.0 RFP PROVISIONS

NAICS CODE AND SMALL BUSINESS SIZE STANDARD

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS Code) for this acquisition is 541712, Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Biotechnology). The corresponding small business size standard for this acquisition is 500 or fewer employees.

The Offeror shall base its Small Business Program Representations on this small business size standard when completing the Representations & Certifications ENCLOSURE document. Refer to Subpart 19.1 - *Size Standards* of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) for information on calculating number of employees.

SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN

Unless the Offeror is a small business, or the total value of the offer is less than \$650,000, the successful Offeror must provide a Small Business Subcontracting Plan, which includes anticipated total subcontracting amount and the percentage goals and amounts for all of the various small business categories. Refer to the *SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN* clause referenced in the GENERAL PROVISIONS and the Model Small Business Subcontracting Plan ENCLOSURE document for additional information. The approved plan will be made a part of any resulting Subcontract. LLNS may, at its sole discretion, determine any offeror who fails to submit an acceptable subcontracting plan ineligible for award of a Subcontract.

OFFERORS' QUESTIONS

Offerors shall submit questions in writing via email to the LLNS Contract Administrator on or before the Offeror's Question Response due date. Questions received by this date will be responded to by LLNS. Answers to questions that are, in the sole discretion of LLNS, germane to the interpretation of LLNS' requirements will be issued to all Offerors via the PathForward website.

AMENDMENT OF DOCUMENTS

The terms and conditions of this RFP may be amended only by the LLNS Contract Administrator via written amendment to the RFP. Any such written amendment shall become part of this RFP.

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Submission of a proposal shall indicate the Offeror's acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Sample Subcontract and its attachments. These terms and conditions have been approved by the DOE/NNSA. Failure to accept the terms and conditions may result in significant, unacceptable delays in award of a Subcontract which could cause LLNS to reject Offeror's proposal.

PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance of late proposals will be at the sole discretion of LLNS. LLNS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to waive any irregularity it, in its sole discretion, deems minor in any proposal. Proposals shall be valid for at least 90 days after the proposal due date. LLNS desires to select approximately five Offerors covering the areas of technology discussed in the SOW. However; LLNS reserves the right, based on the proposals received in response to the RFP, to select none, or any number of awardees for any area of technology. LLNS reserves its rights to: 1) make selections on the basis of initial proposals; 2) negotiate with any or all Offerors for any reason; and 3) award subcontract(s) based on a single proposal that addresses more than one area of technology. See the SOW for additional information.

PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

LLNS will treat all commercial, financial or technical information that is properly marked in a proposal in response to this RFP as proprietary information; however, LLNS prefers not to receive any proprietary information. The Subcontractor shall mark each page containing commercial, financial or technical information as "Proprietary" or its equivalent.

LLNS will use its best efforts to (1) maintain such proprietary information in confidence, giving it the same degree of care, but no less than a reasonable degree of care, as LLNS exercises with its own proprietary information to prevent its unauthorized disclosure; and (2) only disclose such proprietary information to its employees, agents, consultants, subcontractors, or Participating DOE Laboratories (as described in the SOW) on a "need to know" basis. In addition to the above, the Offeror agrees that from time to time, consistent with the terms of LLNS' prime contract with the U.S. Government, LLNS may release proprietary information to Government personnel who administer LLNS' prime contract. Government personnel in receipt of proprietary information are subject to confidentiality requirements pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1905.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

It is anticipated that DOE will grant a class advance waiver on intellectual property for PathForward. The grant of this class advance waiver is anticipated shortly. Upon receipt of the explicit language of the waiver, LLNS will amend this RFP and update Attachment 8 on the PathForward website. Offerors are responsible to make themselves aware of any RFP so updated, and the terms of that Class Waiver will control over any provision of this RFP. In general, LLNS anticipates the waiver will allow an awardee that is a large business, and any domestic first and second tier subcontractor of that awardee, to assert copyright to its works of authorship and to elect title to its subject inventions without prior approval from the Government.

Cost sharing is a condition of the class advance waiver for a large business awardee. A large business must fund at least 40% of the total price of performance under its subcontract to have the class advance waiver language included in that subcontract. All Offerors shall include the total price of performance in their proposals and Offerors that are large businesses must make a specific assertion accepting the 40% share (or offering to share more than 40%) in order to obtain the terms of the class advance waiver. Offerors that are large businesses that do not accept the 40% share, and that may be selected for award will be subject to the existing FAR and DEAR intellectual property clauses in the GENERAL PROVISIONS incorporated in the Sample Subcontract.

A large business Offeror that desires a lower cost share percentage or different terms than those granted in the class advance waiver would be required to negotiate directly with DOE. However, those negotiations would be time consuming and would not allow the DOE Laboratories to maintain the PathForward schedule. As a result, the DOE Laboratories may view the Offeror's proposal less favorably than a proposal from another Offeror that is willing to cost share at least 40% and accept the class advance waiver provisions as is.

Offerors that are small businesses or non-profit entities and that may be selected for award should note that the class advance waiver provisions for patents will not be included in a subcontract. By statute, a small business may elect title to its subject invention without prior approval from the Government.

Foreign owned or controlled Offerors and proposed foreign owned or controlled subcontractors to an Offeror at any tier are not eligible to receive the class advance waiver. These entities will be subject to the existing FAR and DEAR intellectual property clauses in the GENERAL PROVISIONS incorporated in the Sample Subcontract.

3.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

PROPOSAL CONTENTS

Mandatory Requirements

The Offeror's proposal shall demonstrate its ability to meet or exceed each of the mandatory requirements identified in section 6.4 of the SOW. The mandatory requirements for a proposal

apply regardless of the technology area or areas addressed in a proposal. These are noted below by section title.

- Exascale System Description
- Prioritized List of Work Packages
 - Technology Area
 - Area of Innovation
 - Cost Summary
 - Impact

Performance Features and Supplier Attributes

The Offeror's proposal should identify and discuss the performance features and supplier attributes that will be important to the Offeror's successful performance and the attainment of PathForward's objectives. The DOE Laboratories have identified the performance features and supplier attributes listed below, which should be discussed in the proposal. The Offeror may identify and discuss other performance features and supplier attributes it believes may be of value to the DOE Laboratories. If the DOE Laboratories agree, consideration may be given to them in the evaluation process. In all cases, the DOE Laboratories will assess the value of each proposal as submitted.

Performance Features

- The extent to which the proposed hardware architecture solution will impact offerings available in response to an exascale system procurement RFP.
- The degree to which the technical proposal meets or exceeds any target requirement (TR).
- The degree of innovation in the proposed R&D activities.
- The extent to which the proposed R&D achieves substantial gains over existing roadmaps of the Offeror in particular and the industry in general.
- The extent to which the R&D requires software changes and the level of effort required to move existing applications to the new system. And also the limitations if those changes are not put into place.
- The extent to which the proposed R&D will impact HPC and the broader marketplace.
- Credibility that the proposed R&D will achieve the stated results.
- Credibility of the productization plan for the proposed technology.
- The likelihood that the Offeror's proposed research and development efforts can be meaningfully conducted and completed within the subcontract period of performance.

Supplier Attributes

- The extent to which the proposal demonstrates the Offeror's experience and **past performance** engaging in similar R&D activities.
- The Offeror's ability to demonstrate adequate financial resources to perform the proposed effort.

- The Offeror's demonstrated ability to meet schedule and delivery promises.
- The extent to which the proposed research aligns with the Offeror's product strategy.
- The extent to which the proposal demonstrates significant relevant expertise and skill of the Offeror's key personnel for this project.
- The extent to which the proposal demonstrates the contribution of the Offeror's key personnel for this project to ensure the successful and timely completion of the work.
- For proposals including subcontracted work - The extent to which the proposal demonstrates the qualifications of lower-tier subcontractor(s) and their ability to perform the assigned work.

Price and Schedule

The price proposal shall include a total firm fixed price for the work described in the Sample Subcontract and the SOW. The proposal shall include a basis of estimate (BOE) for the proposed total firm fixed price and milestone payments and deliverables. The BOE shall include, at a minimum, an estimate of labor categories, labor hours by category, and fully burdened hourly labor rates by category to perform the work. The BOE shall also identify proposed material, travel, or other expenses to perform each proposed activity or task. The proposal shall include a projected funding expenditure profile by month or quarter for each proposed research activity or task. LLNS does not anticipate the need for Certified Cost or Pricing Data (as defined at FAR Part 15); however, LLNS reserves its right to request submission of Certified Cost or Pricing Data from the selected Offeror(s).

Milestone Payments

Offerors should propose milestone payments; however, such proposed payments must conform to the following guidelines:

- They cannot represent advance payments. They must represent the value DOE will receive upon making the payment.
- They must be in accordance with readily verifiable milestones (e.g., receipt of purchased materials, measurable performance).
- They must not exceed 90% of the total Subcontract price (e.g., the last payment must be equal to or greater than 10% of the total proposed Subcontract price).

Payment Terms

The proposal shall also include invoice payment terms. LLNS prefers payment terms of 2% 15, Net 30 Days.

Royalty Information

If the offer in response to this solicitation contains costs or charges for royalties totaling more than \$250, the following information shall be included in the response relating to each separate item of royalty or license fee: name and address of licensor; date of license agreement; patent numbers, patent application serial numbers, or other basis on which the royalty is payable; brief description, including any part or model numbers of each item or component on which the royalty is payable; percentage or dollar rate of royalty per unit; unit price of item; number of units; and total dollar amount of royalties.

In addition, if specifically requested by the LLNS Contract Administrator before award, the Offeror shall furnish a copy of the current license agreement and an identification of applicable claims of specific patents or other basis upon which the royalty may be payable.

Financial Statements

Upon request, the Offeror shall provide statements that fully describe the Offeror's current financial condition and its financial ability to support LLNS requirements during performance, and include a recent company history of sales and a growth profile. The statements should consist of either: (1) audited and certified year-end financial statements for a minimum of the last two years (balance sheet, income statement, statement of cash flows (if available), and other financial statements or reports as necessary); (2) financial statements reviewed or compiled by a certified public accountant or other accounting professional (include the accounting firm's cover letter); or (3) other information acceptable to LLNS. LLNS reserves the right to request additional financial statements.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The Offeror shall send its Technical Proposal and Price Proposal as separate document files to one of the following addresses. The total length of a Technical Proposal, including any figures and references, shall not exceed fifty pages, with a minimum text font size of 11 points and margins no smaller than one inch on all sides.

The proposal shall be in electronic form (Microsoft Office and/or portable document format files) on as many compact discs or thumb drives as necessary to contain the proposal. Proposals must be received no later than July 18, 2016.

Address for Commercial Courier

(Not For Hand Delivery)

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Attention: Brandt Esser
Mail Code L-555
RFP B617524
7000 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Address for Mailing

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Attention: Brandt Esser
Mail Code L-555
RFP B617524
P.O. Box 5012
Livermore, CA 94551

The Offeror may submit its proposal via email to the LLNS Contract Administrator at esser3@llnl.gov. It should be noted that LLNL's firewall may prevent submission of particularly large files. Prior to submitting a proposal via email, the Offeror should notify the LLNS Contract Administrator of such intent at least 10 days prior to the proposal due date and submit a test file (of a type and size representative of the largest file to be include in Offeror's proposal) via email to validate if there may be any potential LLNL firewall obstruction. The LLNL firewall will block any file with a .zip extension. **LLNS will not be liable for any failure of transmission of any document emailed under this provision.**

4.0 PROPOSAL EVALUATION

BASIS FOR SELECTION

Evaluation Factors

Evaluation factors are mandatory requirements, performance features, supplier attributes, and price that the DOE Laboratories will use to evaluate proposals. The DOE Laboratories have identified the mandatory requirements, performance features and supplier attributes that should be discussed in the proposal. Offerors may identify and discuss other performance features and supplier attributes they believe may be of value to the DOE Laboratories. If the DOE Laboratories agree, consideration may be given to them in the evaluation process.

Basis for Selection

LLNS intends to select the responsive and responsible Offeror whose proposal satisfies the mandatory requirements and contains the combination of factors offering the best overall value to LLNS. LLNS will determine the best overall value by comparing differences in performance features and supplier attributes offered with differences in price, striking the most advantageous balance between expected performance and the overall price to LLNS. LLNS' selection may be made on the basis of the initial proposals or LLNS may elect to negotiate with Offerors selected as finalists.

5.0 ENCLOSURES

* The documents and forms marked with an asterisk are available on-line at the following website: <https://supplychain.llnl.gov/> (under Supplier Information, select either General Provisions & Forms, or Special Provisions).

The following documents are hereby incorporated as a part of this RFP and need not be returned with the proposal:

Sample Subcontract and its Incorporated Documents
PathForward DRAFT Technical Requirements
Model Small Business Subcontracting Plan *

In addition to completing the online portal requested information, the Offeror shall complete the following document(s) and submit them with the proposal:

Representations & Certifications *

If there are any questions, please contact me by phone or e-mail (contact info provided in the RFP Summary table).

Sincerely,

Brandt Esser
LLNS Contract Administrator