

RFI-NCEP2009
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Weather and Climate Operational Supercomputing System (WCOSS) and
R&D Supercomputing System (RDSCS) for
The National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)

Question and Answers
08 January 2009

1. In Section 2.4.24 of the SON, the Government indicates that system installation and/or site preparation work is scheduled to begin no later than 10/01/2010 and System Acceptance (Section E) is required no later than March 30th, 2012. The current CCS contract expires 09/30/2011. Will the \$26M in funding available in FY2011 for the new HPCS systems be independent from the funding required for the continued support the CCS contract through end of FY2011?

Answer: The funding requests for supporting the build out of the new CCS environments are separate from the ongoing maintenance of the current CCS environments; however, only the \$26M/year is the known figure.

2. Is the budget for the O-R&D System included in the \$26M/Yr projected budget? If so, would the Government please break that cost out?

Answer: The annual budget of \$26M includes both systems.

3. Section 3.1 of the SON states, "Table 1 lists the major components of the NPS as of the end of the existing contract (2010)." The current CCS contract expires in FY2011.

Answer: "2010" has been changed to read "2011."

4. Will the website included a link for RFI Q&A's so all vendors will be able to view questions and answers?

Answer: Yes. The RFI Questions and Answers will be posted and will be accessible to all vendors on the project website.

5. If affirmative on Q#4, will vendors be notified of updates to RFI Q&A's or should vendors monitor the website daily?

Answer: The Government will post responses to questions shortly after they have been received and reviewed; however, it is the vendor's responsibility to monitor the website for changes.

6. In Section 1.4, pg 8, the RFI states that the base contract will be 4 years, with an option for 2 additional 3 year options, thus a total of 10 years. However, in the RFI instructions, only 9 years are identified, i.e. 2011-2019. Please clarify.

Answer: The contract will run for ten years. The RFI instructions have been changed to reflect this.

7. Has anyone observed that the document with the "draft" embossing is very slow to display and print? Can you provide a draft SON without embedding "draft"?

Answer: The SON draft watermark has been removed.

8. The website indicates the RFI Instructions and SON were updated on 12/4/08. Neither document is using "track change" and thus difficult to discern the changes made to the information. Will NCEP incorporate "track changes" or some other edit function, and add an addendum of changes to the SON, so vendors can discern the specific changes made to each iteration of the documentation? Is it possible to summarize what changes (sections, page #'s) were made in the 12/4 edits?

Answer: The changes to the RFI instructions and the Statement of Need (SON) from the previous posted version are as follows:

RFI instructions:

General information: Posted date changed from Nov 3 to Nov 19, 2009

Projected Budget by Fiscal Year table: Year 2020 added to the table to be consistent with the duration of the contract mentioned in the SON.

Statement of Need (SON):

Title page: added new revision date of 20081107.

Section 1.4 Contract terms (p. 8) with an option for one additional 4-year period followed by one additional 2-year period changed to with an option for two additional 3-year periods.

Section 2.4.11 Backup Data Storage System (p. 18): RDHPCS HPSS changed to RDHPCS HSM

Section 2.4.19.3 Application Support (p.23): L1 changed to L3

Section 2.4.19.5 Facilities Engineering Support (p.23): L1 changed to L3

Section 2.5.11 Backup Data Storage System (p. 30): RDHPCS HPSS changed to RDHPCS HSM

Section 2.5.20.3 Application Support (p.35): L1 changed to L3

Section 2.5.20.5 Facilities Engineering Support (p.35): L1 changed to L3

Section 3.1 Operation in 2010 (p.39): Table 1 lists the major components of the NPS as of the end of existing contract (2010) changed to Table 1 lists the major components of the NPS for 2010.

Appendix A (p.54): Primary and Backup systems are expected to become operational on June, 1, 2009 changed to Primary and Backup systems are expected to become operational on October, 1, 2009.

Appendix A (p.55) 8) Software: g. Third party commercial software: ii. Vampir (Parallel Program MPI Optimizer) added

Appendix B Haze (p.56) 7) Software levels: h. Third party commercial software: ii. Vampir (Parallel Program MPI Optimizer) added

Appendix B Vapor (p.57) 7) Software: g. Third party commercial software: iv. Vampir (Parallel Program MPI Optimizer) added

Appendix B Archival System (p.57) 1) HPSS Hierarchical Storage changed to HSM Hierarchical Storage

Appendix F Overview of NOAA's OCCS and O-R&D high performance computing requirements table (p.67, 68) added O-R&D (contract option) to the heading box for the far right column

Appendix G Note #1 (p.69): changed (e.g. HPSS) to (e.g. HSM).

Appendix H Note #2 (p.70): changed (e.g. HPSS) to (e.g. HSM).

Appendix I Note #1 (p.71): changed (e.g. HPSS) to (e.g. HSM).