

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS 1-5**  
**USPTO SOLICITATION NO. DOC52PAPT1100036 FOR**  
**AUTOMATED BIO-SEQUENCE SEARCH SYSTEM (ABSS)**

**Q1.** Regarding the requirements under item "C.4 (CLIN 2) Molecular Biology Software Requirements" : does the fact that it's designated as CLIN 2 indicate that these requirements are only to be supplied during Option Year 2 (CLIN 2 on page 2 of the RFP)? If this is indeed the case, is the USPTO interested in receiving this functionality within CLIN 1 (base year) if it can be so supplied by the Offeror?

**A1. The reference to (CLIN 2) under Section C.4 was inadvertent and will be deleted per Amendment 1 to the RFP. CLIN 0002 under Section B only refers to Option Year 2.**

**Q2.** Part of the language under item C.5.4 "Convert 3-letter amino acid sequence to 1-letter, and vice versa." also appears under item C.4.7.5 "Convert case of residue symbols in a pasted sequence. *3-letter amino acid sequence to 1-letter, and vice versa.*" Can you please confirm that the requirement "Convert 3-letter amino acid sequence to 1-letter, and vice versa." is indeed designated for later delivery?

**A2. Section C.5.4 will be deleted per Amendment 1 to the RFP. Section C.4.7.5 remains unchanged.**

**Q3.** Under item K.3, the Solicitation requires the Offeror to "ensure that the following information from Sections K. 4, K.5, and K.6 is included in the paper copy submitted with its proposal.". However, Section K.6 doesn't appear to be present in the document.

**A.3 The following paragraph will be added per Amendment 1 to the RFP:**

**K.6 Small Business Program Representations**

a. (1) *The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for this acquisition is 541511.*

(2) *The small business size standard is \$25M.*

(3) *The small business size standard for a concern which submits an offer in its own name, other than on a construction or service contract, but which proposes to furnish a product which it did not itself manufacture, is 500 employees.*

b. *Representations.*

(1) *The Offeror represents as part of its offer that it \_\_\_ is, \_\_\_ is not a small business concern.*

(2) *[Complete only if the Offeror represented itself as a small business concern in paragraph (b)(1) of this provision.] The Offeror represents, for general statistical purposes, that it \_\_\_ is, \_\_\_ is not, a small disadvantaged business concern as defined in 13 CFR 124.1002.*

(3) *[Complete only if the Offeror represented itself as a small business concern in paragraph (b)(1) of this provision.] The Offeror represents as part of its offer that it \_\_\_ is, \_\_\_ is not a women-owned small business concern.*

(4) *[Complete only if the Offeror represented itself as a small business concern in paragraph (b)(1) of this provision.] The Offeror represents as part of its offer that it \_\_\_ is, \_\_\_ is not a veteran-owned small business concern.*

(5) [Complete only if the Offeror represented itself as a veteran-owned small business concern in paragraph (b)(4) of this provision.] The Offeror represents as part of its offer that it \_\_\_ is, \_\_\_ is not a service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern.

c. *Definitions. As used in this provision--*

*"Service-disabled veteran-owned small business concern"--*

(1) *Means a small business concern--*

(i) *Not less than 51 percent of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of any publicly owned business, not less than 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more service-disabled veterans; and*

(ii) *The management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans or, in the case of a veteran with permanent and severe disability, the spouse or permanent caregiver of such veteran.*

(2) *Service-disabled veteran means a veteran, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), with a disability that is service-connected, as defined in 38 U.S.C. 101(16).*

*"Small business concern" means a concern, including its affiliates, that is independently owned and operated, not dominant in the field of operation in which it is bidding on Government contracts, and qualified as a small business under the criteria in 13 CFR part 121 and the size standard in paragraph (a) of this provision.*

*"Veteran-owned small business concern" means a small business concern--*

(1) *Not less than 51 percent of which is owned by one or more veterans (as defined at 38 U.S.C. 101(2)) or, in the case of any publicly owned business, not less than 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more veterans; and*

(2) *The management and daily business operations of which are controlled by one or more veterans.*

*"Women-owned small business concern" means a small business concern--*

(1) *Which is at least 51 percent owned by one or more women or, in the case of any publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by one or more women; and*

(2) *Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more women.*

d. *Notice. (1) If this solicitation is for supplies and has been set aside, in whole or in part, for small business concerns, then the clause in this solicitation providing notice of the set-aside contains restrictions on the source of the end items to be furnished.*

(2) *Under 15 U.S.C. 645(d), any person who misrepresents a firm's status as a small, HUBZone small, small disadvantaged, or women-owned small business concern in order to obtain a contract to be awarded under the preference programs established pursuant to section 8(a), 8(d), 9, or 15 of the Small Business Act or any other provision of Federal law that specifically references section 8(d) for a definition of program eligibility, shall--*

(i) *Be punished by imposition of fine, imprisonment, or both;*

(ii) *Be subject to administrative remedies, including suspension and debarment; and*

(iii) *Be ineligible for participation in programs conducted under the authority of the Act.*

(End of provision)

*Alternate I (Oct 2000). As prescribed in 19.307(a)(2), add the following paragraph (b)(6) to the basic provision:*

*(6) [Complete only if Offeror represented itself as a small business concern in paragraph (b)(1) of this provision.] The Offeror represents, as part of its offer, that--*

*(i) It \_\_\_ is, \_\_\_ is not a HUBZone small business concern listed, on the date of this representation, on the List of Qualified HUBZone Small Business Concerns maintained by the Small Business Administration, and no material change in ownership and control, principal office of ownership, or HUBZone employee percentage has occurred since it was certified by the Small Business Administration in accordance with 13 CFR Part 126; and*

*(ii) It \_\_\_ is, \_\_\_ is not a joint venture that complies with the requirements of 13 CFR Part 126, and the representation in paragraph (b)(6)(i) of this provision is accurate for the HUBZone small business concern or concerns that are participating in the joint venture. [The Offeror shall enter the name or names of the HUBZone small business concern or concerns that are participating in the joint venture: \_\_\_\_\_.] Each HUBZone small business concern participating in the joint venture shall submit a separate signed copy of the HUBZone representation.*

**Q4.** Under L.14.b, FACTOR A - TECHNICAL PROPOSAL, item b., the Offeror is required to "submit software that is downloadable or in DVD format for testing, and also submit a copy of any applicable software license." Are these items supposed to be submitted within the Offeror's proposal, or is this to be provided upon request from USPTO when it conducts the testing of Offeror-proposed software?

**A.4 Software and applicable license(s) are to be submitted with the Offeror's proposal.**

**Q5.** Is it acceptable to provide USPTO contracts and employee contacts as past performance/relevant experience references in accordance with Section L.14.b, FACTOR B - PAST PERFORMANCE / RELEVANT EXPERIENCE?

**A.5 Yes, USPTO employee contacts for former and current contracts may be submitted under Section L.14b, Factor B – Past Performance/Relevant Experience.**