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Special Notice

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Classification Code:

R408-Professional Services/Program management-support

NAICS Code:

541 -- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services/

541519 -- Other Computer Related Services

Synopsis:

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) BEING RELEASED PURSUANT TO FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION (FAR) PART 10: MARKET RESEARCH. This RFI is issued solely for informational, market research, and planning purposes only. It does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. This RFI does not commit the Government to contract for any supply or service whatsoever. Further, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is not at this time seeking proposals, and will not accept unsolicited proposals. Respondents are advised that the United States (U.S) Government will not pay for any information or administrative cost incurred in response to this RFI. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the responding party's expense. Responses to the RFI will not be returned. Please be advised that all submissions become Government property and will not be returned. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP, if one is issued. Responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the U.S Government to form a

binding contract. It is the responsibility of the interested parties to monitor the Federal Business Opportunities (www.fbo.gov) site for additional information pertaining to this RFI.

1.0 RFI OBJECTIVE:

The USPTO, Office of Commissioner for Patents (Patents), is considering the value that would be added to its mission through machine translation of Chinese patent data. The USPTO envisions a process that would provide access to search and retrieve published Chinese patent documents. The USPTO would be responsible for providing bulk native text Chinese patent data and in exchange, a qualified firm would provide access to translated Chinese patent documentation via USPTO's website. Access to the data requires machine translating bulk Chinese published patent data. The data would be made available to USPTO staff via an internal database and to the public via the Internet at no cost to the USPTO.

The USPTO envisions a mutual agreement with a private or public sector firm with the objective of providing easily accessible translated Chinese published patent data to the public and to USPTO. The USPTO seeks qualified firms that are capable of data machine translation and that can provide machine translated data at no cost to the USPTO. Qualified firms shall have the capability to retrieve original Chinese patent documents via a link on the USPTO website. Capable firms have the capability to provide the translated patent data in English, along with the original patent document images and associated metadata to the USPTO for internal use. The firm shall have the capability to provide access to a searchable database for the public. Access to the public searchable database would be provided via the USPTO's website. Qualified firms shall provide tools and capabilities for the public to search a database containing the translated patent data. Qualified firms shall have the capability to fund the ongoing operation of the infrastructure, including the maintenance of the historical data and the periodic updates to the data.

2.0 ACQUISITION STRATEGY:

The USPTO seeks market information on the best ways to structure any potential acquisition strategies, agreements or contracts for machine translation services. If the USPTO determines a requirement for the services stated in this RFI, the acquisition strategy may include solutions offered in response to this RFI. Respondents to this RFI are encouraged to identify and provide any unique solutions. Acquisition strategies used by the USPTO for other requirements could apply to any future requirements as follows:

- Using a single prime contractor for data translation and for hosting translated data in a searchable database for the public accessible via the USPTO website.
- Using multiple contractor(s) for data translation and for hosting translated data in a searchable database for the public accessible via the USPTO website.

- Other acquisition alternatives and suggestions offered by industry

3.0 INSTRUCTIONS FOR RFI RESPONDENTS:

RFI responses should be no longer than ten (10) pages and shall include, at a minimum:

1. Point of Contact Name, Company Name, Address, Email, Phone, DUNS number, CAGE code;
2. A brief capability statement with reference to each of the requirements, capabilities and acquisition strategy solutions as included herein;
3. An indication of whether teaming is intended, and if so, identification of each vendor involved in the team;
4. The applicable GSA Schedule number(s) for each vendor involved in the response;
5. For each vendor involved in a response, the business size for NAICS 541519;
6. Past performance summary of work performed that was of similar size and scope; and
7. An indication of interest in responding to a solicitation, should one be issued.

Telephone calls requesting a solicitation will not be accepted or acknowledged. Responses to this RFI are voluntary and their source shall be treated as confidential. Participation in this effort is strictly voluntary. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested respondent's expense. The objective of this RFI is to assess vendor capabilities and interest. Review of the responses to the RFI will focus on the offeror's technical capability to provide a quality solution, corporate experience/past performance for same or similar activity with commercial activities or government agencies, and responsiveness to the RFI.

Interested firms who possess the above capabilities should respond no later 11:00 AM, Contract Specialist Local time on July 16, 2012. Responses received in response to this announcement that are marked "Proprietary" will be handled accordingly. Proprietary information submitted in response to this RFI will be protected from unauthorized disclosure as required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). All proprietary markings should be clearly delineated. The respondent shall identify where data is restricted by proprietary or other rights and mark it accordingly.

Please mail any responses to: The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Office of Procurement, Attn: Velvette L. Clayton, Office of Procurement, MDE Room 7C45, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or email: Velvette.Clayton@uspto.gov.

Please include RFI number PROC1200208 on any correspondence.

4.0 FORMATTING OF RESPOSNES

Responses shall be on white paper/thesis format, 8.5"x11" and not more than ten (10) pages in length. Font size should be 12 point, Times New Roman, single sided, and prepared in Microsoft Word. Charts and graphics must be in Microsoft Excel. Electronic submissions shall be in PDF file format. The total page count of 10 pages does not include the cover letter, table of contents and acronym list. The total page count does include all other information provided. Fold out charts for tables or graphics are allowed with a limited size of 11"x17" and each foldout counts as a single page and also counts towards the total page limit. A sample preferred layout follows this paragraph.

Introduction: Provide a brief description of existing capability to perform the requirements or provide proposed Statement of Work language for the services and/or any proposed solution. In the event your company chooses to provide information subject to inclusion in a future RFP Statement of Work (SOW), clearly identify those portions and provide any appropriate authorizations for release of that portion of information within any subsequent RFP SOW issued by the USPTO, exclusive of any proprietary markings.

Technical Capability: The respondent's technical ability shall describe the services and/or any product solution(s) for the areas described in Paragraph 1.0 and 2.0 of this RFI. The responses should include an overall description of the proposed services and/or any product solution(s) and provide technical data and a demonstrated ability for those areas identified. The descriptions should include schedule information for delivery of services and/or product(s); and the technical rationale for providing these to the USPTO. Interested parties should provide information on their ability to use existing assets or procure, customize/configure, maintain and/or provide technical support for the resources needed for the proposed services and/or product(s). Interested parties should also describe technical benefits of their proposed services and/or product solution(s) in terms of existing technologies or resources, improvements/enhancements, cost efficiencies of their specific approach, and any other support capabilities that provide service and/or product excellence or uniqueness.

Corporate Experience/Past Performance: Provide a brief description of your corporate experience in same or similar services and/or product solution(s) to both commercial and government organizations; a minimum of three past performance contacts are requested for same or similar services and/or any product solution(s).

Not responding to the RFI does not preclude participation in any future RFP. If a solicitation is released, it will be issued via the Federal Business Opportunities website (www.fbo.gov). It is the responsibility of the potential offerors to monitor this website for any information that may pertain to this RFI or a future RFP. The information provided in this RFI and any future changes to the RFI are subject to change and are not binding on the USPTO.

5.0 POTENTIAL CLARIFICATION OF RFI RESPONSES

To fully comprehend the information contained within a response to this RFI, there may be a need to seek further clarification from those respondent(s) identified as capable. This clarification may be requested in the form of brief verbal communication by telephone; written communication; electronic communication; or a request for a presentation of the response to a specific USPTO group or groups. The USPTO reserves the right to seek additional information from those vendors identified with unique solutions that are determined to be beneficial to the USPTO.