

DOING BUSINESS WITH NSRI



The National Strategic Research Institute (NSRI) at the University of Nebraska is one of fourteen organizations designated by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (ASD R&E) as a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) operating in accordance with the provisions of the UARC Management Plan established by the Department of Defense.

Consistent with this plan, NSRI remains free from conflicts of interests and receives tasking and funding on a sole-source basis, primarily under Exemption 3 of the Competition in Contracts Act (CICA). This exemption from full and open competition, also referred to as CICA 3 [10 U.S.C. 2304(c)(3)], is recognized and authorized by federal regulation and law when the Government determines that it should maintain essential engineering, research, or development capabilities provided by an educational or other nonprofit institution.

NSRI receives funding via an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract (the primary NSRI UARC contract vehicle), other direct contracting vehicles, other transaction agreements (OTAs), cooperative agreements, and grants. Government sponsors may submit funding (R&D, O&M, procurement) to the contracting office via a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR) or Form 9 (Request for Purchase). If required, Support Agreements are facilitated by the U.S. Strategic Command UARC Program Management office. NSRI can also receive funding via Government Purchase Card (GPC) or through an Authorization, Agreement and Certification of Training (SF-182) depending on the nature of the effort.



INITIATE A RESEARCH CONTRACT

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NSRI IDIQ INTEGRATED TEAM PROCESS

The Integrated Team Process (ITP) was contractually established by the Government to create an open and effective line of communication between the Government sponsor and NSRI to reduce contracting cycle time and rework while fulfilling the requirements that support the mission.

Successful execution of the ITP is essential in order for NSRI to maintain its “trusted agent” status while avoiding the typical acquisition time delays associated with the following:

- ▶ Government market research – sources sought
- ▶ Development of a well-defined PWS/SOW
- ▶ Competitive RFP or approval for sole source
- ▶ Proposal development
- ▶ Multiple proposal reviews/analysis
source selection committees
- ▶ Negotiations
- ▶ Potential protests

NSRI IDIQ TASK ORDER CONTRACTING PROCESS



USSTRATCOM facilitates and assists throughout the process.

1 Performance Work Statement (PWS) Development

- ◆ ■ Identify requirements and budget
- ◆ ■ Draft PWS through collaborative process
- ◆ Commit funding
- ◆ Create independent government estimate
- ◆ Identify contracting officer representative (COR)
- Draft proposal

2 Request For Proposal (RFP)

- ◆ ■ ● Formal PWS review
- Release of RFP
- Proposal submission

3 Proposal Review & Award

- ◆ ● Perform technical and cost analysis
- ◆ COR training
- Contract team reviews
- ● Negotiations
- Process award documentation

ESTABLISHING A DIRECT SOLE-SOURCE CONTRACT WITH NSRI

Benefits

- ▶ Contracting process is under direct management of the sponsor. Therefore, the tasking sponsor has more control over the timing of processing tasking requirements to NSRI.
- ▶ Contract SOW matches precisely with sponsor requirements.
- ▶ DD-254 security specifications matches precisely with sponsor requirements.
- ▶ Sponsor is not charged a processing fee for placing work under the contract.
- ▶ Sponsor may allow use of contract to other agencies for a fee.

Typical Steps

- 1** Government prepares an acquisition plan in accordance with FAR] and, if applicable, as required by DFARS 207.1.
- 2** Government prepares a sole-source Justification and Approval (J&A) using CICA 3 (FAR 6.302-3). Levels of approvals are specified in FAR 6.304.
- 3** If Maintenance of Essential Capabilities (CICA 3) is the basis for award, Market Research, including FedBizOpps announcements, is not a legal or regulatory requirement (note: but may still be an agency practice).
- 4** Government posts the approved J&A in FedBizOpps for 14 days.
- 5** Government issues a sole-source solicitation to NSRI and NSRI submits a proposal in response.
- 6** Government evaluates NSRI's proposal.
- 7** Government and NSRI agree on contract terms.
- 8** Government announces contract award (note: required for DoD awards of \$7M and above).
- 9** Contract awarded.



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