

Southeastern VISTAS II Regional Haze Analysis Project
Request for Proposals
Bidder Questions and Answers
January 8, 2018

The following questions have been submitted by potential bidders. SESARM is offering the questions and answers to all prospective bidders through this document which will be posted to the Metro 4/SESARM web site.

Question 1: General. Eligible Bidders.

Are for-profit entities eligible to bid on this project?

Answer 1:

Yes.

Question 2: General. Solicitation Number.

Is there a solicitation number for this RFP?

Answer 2:

Bidders needing to their proposal against an RFP solicitation number may use S-2017-12-01.

Question 3: Page 23. VI. G. 3. Subtask 6.3. Projection Year Air Quality Modeling

Does SESARM want any benchmarking or comparison against EPA results?

Answer 3:

Since the VISTAS 2028 EGU and non-EGU emissions will not be identical to the EPA 2028 emissions, a true benchmark is not possible. However, bidders should incorporate a comparison of VISTAS 2028 results to the EPA 2028 results to evaluate any substantive differences that may require further attention.

Question 4: Page 24. VI. H. Task 7. Source Apportionment Tagging.

Task 7 states that PSAT source apportionment modeling will be performed using the 2028 VISTAS_12 platform and that PSAT tagging will be required for sulfate and/or nitrate. CAMx memory and run time requirements are vary for sulfate and nitrate due to the difference in the number of tracked species required. For the purposes of costing and schedule projections, what is the mix of sulfate and nitrate tags that bidders should assume?

Answer 4:

Bidders should assume a 50:50 split between sulfate and nitrate tags.

Question 5: Pages 27-29. VII. Schedule. Completion Date.

What is the correct completion date for all deliverables? On Page 27, the narrative states “SESARM emphasizes the need to complete this work by July 31, 2019 and reserves the right to reject any bid that does not incorporate the July 31, 2019 project deliverable deadline.” On Page 29 at the end of the task, description, and date table, the completion date is listed as “06/30/2019.”

Answer 5:

The correct date at both locations is 06/30/2019.

Question 6: Page 29. VIII. A. Proposal Submittal Deadline.

Does the prescribed paper copy of the proposal have to be postmarked or received by the January 26, 2018 deadline?

Answer 6:

The electronic copy of the proposal (technical aspects and separate costs) must be received by Close of Business (5:00 p.m. EST) on January 26, 2018. The paper copy of the proposal should be postmarked no later than the first business day after January 26, 2018.

Question 7: Page 30. VIII. C. 4. Cost Proposal.

Do the eligible contract types include cost plus fixed fee and time and materials contracts?

Answer 7:

SESARM procurement procedures allow fixed price, cost plus fixed fee, and time and materials contracts. SESARM has used different contract types in the past. SESARM prefers the contract type that results in the lowest possible price with certainty of finishing the project within budget and certainty of meeting the deliverables deadlines. Any bidder wishing to suggest a particular type of contractual arrangement should describe the preferred contract type and the reasons for preferring this contract type. Bidders may propose multiple contract options if preferred but such proposals must provide adequate explanation of the cost implications of the options as well as the benefits to SESARM and the bidder for each option.

Question 8: Page 30. III. C. 4. Cost Proposal.

Is profit/fee an allowable item?

Answer 8:

For-profit entities are allowed to bid on this project. The “profit/fee” terminology in this question should be addressable if the applicable contract type is proposed.

Question 9: Page 37. XI. C. Potential Workshop Locations.

Under “Project Responsibilities – SESARM,” reference is made to up to two optional workshops that SESARM may host. The paragraph implies that the Contractor would be required to participate in these workshops if scheduled with costs to be billable to SESARM. Please clarify the locations of these two workshops.

Answer 9:

SESARM regrets failing to reference these workshops earlier in the RFP. They are relevant to Task 1 (Project Management) and bidders should include travel cost estimates for these potential workshops in their cost proposals. The RFP is hereby amended by reference to incorporate the workshops as a part of Subtask 1.5. (Communications) in a new subparagraph “d.” as follows:

d. Optional Workshops and Associated Costs.

- i. The Contractor shall participate in up to two optional workshops with participating agency staff, EPA staff, federal land managers, and stakeholders. At these workshops, the Contractor shall plan on presenting to attendees project task updates, preliminary findings, and/or conclusions that are available at the time of the workshops using the summary presentations referenced in Subtask 1.6. (Reports), Subparagraph f.*
- ii. These workshops, if scheduled, will be held in the SESARM states. The actual need for these workshops and final locations have not been determined.*
- iii. For the purposes of lodging and meal cost estimates, bidders should use the highest current federal lodging and meal reimbursement rates that may be found at www.gsa.gov for Atlanta, GA; Asheville, NC; Raleigh, NC; Charleston, SC; and Nashville, TN.*
- iv. SESARM will reimburse the Contractor for meal costs based on the federal meal reimbursement rates applicable at the time of any such workshops for each city where a workshop is ultimately held. Meal tips are a part of the federal reimbursement rate and are not to be added to these rates. SESARM will reimburse for any meal not otherwise provided as part of a workshop if the workshop attendee is on official travel status completely through the following times for each meal: for breakfast 6:30 through 8:30 a.m.; for lunch 11:30 a.m. through 1:30 p.m., and for dinner 5:30 through 7:30 p.m.*

- v. *SESARM will pay actual costs for lodging, ground transportation including tolls, tips and parking if applicable, air fare if applicable, baggage handling and turndown service tips, and other necessary and essential services.*
- vi. *If ground transportation is more cost-effective than air travel, SESARM will pay the lesser of 54.5 cents per mile from Contractor office location to workshop location and return or rental vehicle charges and fuel costs for the same itinerary.*
- vii. *SESARM requests that bidders incorporate lowest practical cost options for each facet of expected travel costs.*
- viii. *Bidders may include up to a 10% contingency buffer to appropriate portions of the travel costs estimates to cover potential costs increases over current rates that may occur through the life of the project.*

This document has been prepared by John Hornback, Executive Director of Metro 4/SESARM. Questions may be directed to him at 404-361-4000 or hornback@metro4-sesarm.org.