

Attachment J-4
ProTech DRAFT Request for Proposal ST-1330-17-RP-0007
Industry Questions and Answers Template (Submit by 07/14/2017)

Question Number	Page Number	Section	Paragraph	Question / Comment	Government Response
1	7	A	0	Please confirm that the table contained on this page is a continuation of the SF 33. It is titled "Schedule Continued" but it doesn't seem to refer to any other section of the RFP.	No, the schedule on page 7 is the beginning of Section B, and provides the estimated periods of performance for the base period for all anticipated options.
2	7	A	0	Please clarify what the unit descriptor "JB" refers to in this table. Additionally, do the "Unit Price" and "Amount" columns relate to the ceiling rates contained in Attachment J-6? If so, please clarify how.	The unit 'JB' represents Job.
3	7	A, SF33	N/A	It is not clear how offeror's are to complete and submit the table titled "Schedule Continued" since this is an IDIQ contract	Please refer to Section L.11.1 Section II for instructions on completing the solicitation documents. offeror's are not asked to complete the Table on page 7. Per FAR 15.204-2(a) the table provides a brief description of the services being procured. A similar table will be present at the order level, for all orders that are structured to follow the Uniform Contract Format.
4	7	B	Schedule Table	The Schedule table in solicitation Section B only goes out 5 years total, but Attachment J-6 goes out 10 years. Will the Government provide clarification on this? Is this a discrepancy?	The resulting award will be an IDIQ with a five year ordering period. Orders placed on the IDIQ may have periods of performance that extend up to five years beyond the IDIQ ordering period. For this reason, pricing for a total of 10 years is requested in Attachment J-6.
5	8	B.1	1	We assume that NOAA AGO will manage all task orders under this domain for NOAA. Please confirm. Will NOAA AGO delegate authority to other contracting organizations when the task orders apply to other Bureaus within the Department of Commerce or manage these as well? This is important to offeror's to understand because of the role and cost of marketing the vehicle within the rest of the Department of Commerce.	All orders under the ProTech IDIQ will be managed by NOAA AGO. There are 11 other bureaus within the Department who may use the ProTech domain vehicles if the scope supports their requirements.
6	8	B.4	1	The RFP states "The OCO has flexibility to exceed these rates for requirements requiring special security clearance, sea days, hazard pay, work performance outside the United States, or other extraordinary circumstances." Question: Please confirm (or clarify otherwise) that "rates" in this context refers to contractor provided rates in accordance with attachment J.6.	The offeror will propose ceiling rates in Attachment J-6. Attachment J-1 will list the offeror's final negotiated ceiling rates and will be completed and provided at time of the IDIQ award.
7	8	B.4	1	Are offeror's required to hold any level of security clearance?	Any security clearance requirements will be specified in individual task orders.
8	8	B	B.3	Background: This is for multiple award IDIQ contracts. For task orders issued on FFP, T&M, or LH pricing basis, or a combination. Question: How many awardees are expected to earn the right as a prime contract holder to bid on the IDIQ task order as they are released?	The number of awards will be determined by the competitive process.
9	8	B4	1	It is stated the for Task Order pricing, the OCO has flexibility to exceed ceiling rates for requirements requiring special security clearances. What is the highest level of clearance expected for IDIQ and/or task orders? Are there specific labor categories that will require clearances? If so, what level of clearances are expected of each labor category?	Any security clearance requirements will be specified in individual task orders.

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10	8	B.2	0	Section B.2 states that the period of performance includes a two (2) year base and Three(3) one year option periods for a total period of performance of five (5) years but Attachment J-6 Cost_Price Template shows rate columns for 10 years for each Domain. Is the the Government requesting rates for five (5) or ten (10) years?	The resulting award will be an IDIQ with a five year ordering period. Orders placed on the IDIQ may have periods of performance that extend up to five years beyond the IDIQ ordering period. For this reason, pricing for a total of 10 years is requested in Attachment J-6.
11	8	B.1	0	Can NOAA offer any projections on the amount and content of overlap between PT Enterprise and the NOAA IT Enterprise Services (ITES) acquisition? Does NOAA expect to move any of the work from PT-Enterprise to the new ITES acquisition when awarded?	ProTech and ITES will have different scopes of work. The scope of work for individual task orders will be reviewed to determine the most appropriate DOC/NOAA vehicle to procure under.
12	8	B.2	1	Will a Small Business need to recertify after the base period that it is still small or will all awardees maintain their size status throughout the IDIQ period of performance?	No, a small business will not need to represent after the base period and will retain its size status for the duration of its IDIQ contract. Reference FAR 19.301-2.
13	8	B.2	1	If a SB at time of award is large after the base period, will that now large business get pushed into the large business suite?	If a small business represents as a large business after award due to novation, its size status will change accordingly. Reference FAR 19.301-2.
14	8	B	B.2	Paragraph specifies a total of 5 years of performance. Five years is also specified in Section F paragraph F.2. However, paragraphs L.10.2 and L.15.5.1 cite Attachment J-6 Price Template that requires 10 years of pricing information. What is the correct total years of performance and/or pricing data required?	The resulting award will be an IDIQ with a five year ordering period. Orders placed on the IDIQ may have periods of performance that extend up to five years beyond the IDIQ ordering period. For this reason, pricing for a total of 10 years is requested in Attachment J-6.
15	8	B.2 Base and Option Periods	1	B.2 and the Schedule define a period of performance of up to 5 years total. J-6 cost-price template asks for 10 years of pricing. Is this a 5 or 10 year requirement?	The resulting award will be an IDIQ with a five year ordering period. Orders placed on the IDIQ may have periods of performance that extend up to five years beyond the IDIQ ordering period. For this reason, pricing for a total of 10 years is requested in Attachment J-6.
16	8	B.3 Contract Type	2	B.4 references J-1 as containing ceiling rates, not applicable to cost plus task orders. J-1 was not in the package you sent to me. J-6 is named cost price template for ceiling rates eod. Is the reference to J-1 in B.4 intended to mean J-6? And is there a J-1 that we may have?	They refer to two separate Attachments. The Attachment J-6 template is provided in the RFP and is to be used to propose the offeror's ceiling rates. The J-1 Attachment will list the offeror's final negotiated ceiling rates and will be completed and incorporated at time of IDIQ award. The Final RFP will include a Title and description of Attachment J-1 and will provide language to clarify this.
17	8	B.1	2	Will the government provide an estimate of the number of awards it intends to make in each of the 5 domains named in B.1, and if so how many, if any, will be set aside for small business?	The number of awards will be determined by the competitive process.
18	9	B.4	2	No Attachment J-1 was included in the draft RFP.	Attachment J-1 will be completed at time of award and is not included in the RFP.
19	9	B.4	2	Where is Attachment J-1 with ceiling rates	Attachment J-1 will be completed at time of award and is not included in the RFP.
20	9	B.4	2	Paragraph 2 states that proposed ceiling rates should be for services provided in the U.S. to include Alaska and Hawaii. Please clarify whether we are to provide Government Site or Contractor Site rates. We are assuming that these ceiling rates should be based on the most costly scenario and as such, contractor site rates are to be submitted.	The rates are ceiling hourly rates, therefore the offeror should use the rate that produces the higher figure. See Section L.11.5 of the draft RFP. Subsequently, when proposing on a task order for which performance is at a lower cost site, the Government would expect a reduction from the ceiling rate to reflect the lower cost location.

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21	9	B.4	2	Please confirm that the referenced Attachment J-1 is actually Attachment J-6.	They refer to two separate Attachments. The Attachment J-6 template is provided in the RFP and is to be used to propose the offeror's ceiling rates. The J-1 Attachment will list the offeror's final negotiated ceiling rates and will be completed and incorporated at time of IDIQ award. The Final RFP will include a Title and description of Attachment J-1 and will provide language to clarify this.
22	9 (first line)	B	B.4	Background: The labor rates contained in Attachment J-1 are ceiling rates for work taking place in the United States (inclusive of Alaska and Hawaii). Question: Where is the attachment J-1?	Attachment J-1 will be completed at time of award and is not included in the RFP.
23	9	B	B.4.3	Is the government going to issue Cost Reimbursement task orders?	See Section B.3 Contract Type. The type of task order will be specified in individual task orders.
24	9	B.4	1	Is the OCO is determining price reasonableness for the task orders?	Yes
25	10	B.4.4	1	Please confirm that offeror's will be permitted to apply indirect costs to ODC's in accordance with their standard accounting practices.	Other Direct Costs will be proposed at the Task Order Level and in accordance with the contractor's normal approved accounting practice.
26	10	B.4.5	2-3	The Government specifies what types of contract-level program management support costs may not be proposed or billed as a direct cost to the ProTech IDIQ contract. However, what are the specific task order level program management support costs that the Government will allow to be proposed and billed as direct costs on task orders? What labor categories are offeror's permitted to propose in Attachment J-6 for task order program management?	No funds will be obligated at the IDIQ contract level. All costs shall be invoiced at the task order level. Direct and indirect charges should be handled in accordance with the offeror's normal accounting process.
27	10	B.4.4	1	Section B 4.4 identifies ODCs under task orders, but Attachment J-6 does not have a place to identify the indirect rate applicable to ODCs. Does the Government desire visibility into this rate at this time for proposal evaluation purposes, or will it be reviewed when task orders proposals are being solicited?	Other Direct Costs will be proposed at the Task Order Level and in accordance with the contractor's normal approved accounting practice.
28	0	B.4	2	Please provide clarification on: "The OCO should carefully consider the individual elements of a task order proposal's pricing pool before considering the ceiling rates for anything beyond not to exceed costs."	This guidance is intended for the OCO and not for offeror's to respond to.
29	31	F.5	1	The SOW states that Place of Performance shall be set forth in individual task orders. Will all contractor resources be government site labor? Please provide more details.	This will be determined by the requirements of the future Task Orders.
30	31	F.4	1	The solicitation states that the "Place of Performance shall be set forth in individual task orders." Attachment J-6_Cost_Price_Template_for_Ceiling_Rates_EOD.xlsx requests that the rates be built up using fringe, overhead, and G&A. Will the Government allow the offeror to provide two templates one for Government site rates and one for Contractor site rates?	Only one rate should be provided. offeror's should base the rates on the most highly qualified employee or class of employees within a category working in the highest cost location, considering the higher cost of performance at a Government or Contractor site.

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31	31	F.4	0	Please confirm that the place of performance for an individual task order may be either on government site or on contractor site and any place in the world, CONUS or OCONUS (although pricing is based on CONUS plus Alaska and Hawaii).	Confirmed
32	32	F.6	Table	For Monthly Task Order Status and IDIQ Escalation Plan Reporting: Can a single e-mail with cc's to the designated address suffice?	No, these two deliverables have different recipients and frequency of submission. See Section F.6 (e).
33	32	F.6	5	Is the IDIQ Escalation Plan due 90 calendar days or 90 business days after the IDIQ contract award?	Final RFP will clarify. Note: Suggest calendar days to be consistent with other deliverables and addition of following language to F.6.3: "If the 90th calendar day falls on a weekend or holiday, the report is due the following business day."
34	33	F.6.3	0	Please clarify the purpose or usefulness of the Escalation Plan as described for the IDIQ level. Only a very general escalation plan could be created for this level and would not be directly actionable. A plan of this type seems more appropriate for the Task Order level, especially given that Task Orders may be in other Department of Commerce Bureaus and require substantially different escalation paths and approaches. We recommend having escalation plans submitted as part of a TO response instead of 90 days after the IDIQ response.	Refer to F.6.3 for the purpose of the Escalation Plan: "The Contractor shall provide an Escalation Plan, which documents the Contractor's approach to dispute resolution at the task order level and any mechanisms it has put in place for raising issues to the Domain Contracting Officer."
35	31, 54, 57	F.2, I.3, I.7 (d)	0	F.2 specifies the period of performance (POP) for the IDIQ. I.3 states that Task Orders "may be issued from contract start date through the contract end date." What is the allowed POP for Task Orders beyond the end of the POP for the IDIQ? I.7 (d) seems to indicate it is 60 months, but uses the words "delivery period of the IDIQ", instead of "delivery period of Task Orders issued under the IDIQ". Please clarify.	Orders placed on the IDIQ may have periods of performance that extend up to five years beyond the IDIQ ordering period.
36	32-33	F.6.1 - F.6.2	0	Please clarify why there are both contract and task order progress reports. The contract report seems to cover all of the same information as the task order report making the task order report duplicative.	The Contract Status Report summarizes activity at the IDIQ contract level. The Task Order Status Report summarizes activity at the Task Order level.
37	35	G.2.1.2	2	Please confirm that the government intended to say "Enterprise Domain" instead of "Satellite Domain" in this paragraph.	Confirmed. The final RFP will be corrected.
38	36	G.3	0	Will there be any fees associated with the use of this contract for task orders with NOAA and/or other DOC Bureaus (similar to GSA Schedules)? If so, what is the fee structure and who is responsible for paying it (e.g. government client as part of the TO process or contractor during the invoicing process)?	Any fees associated with the use of the ProTech Contracts are internal to the Government and are not the responsibility of the Contractor.
39	36	G.3	0	Is there a default or standard TO proposal response timeframe or is it always TO specific?	An ordering guide for Task Order ordering procedures has been developed and made public at (www.ProTech.services.noaa.gov). In some cases, procedures may be TO specific as needed.
40	36	G.3 (c)	0	Please clarify why the ombudsman is involved when multiple awards are made.	Please refer to Section G.11 for guidance on when an ombudsman may be involved.

Attachment J-4
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41	36	G.2.1.2	(a)	Will there be a separate COR for each Domain or multiple CORs for each domain? Or only one per Domain and then a COR for each Task order?	There will be one COR assigned at the IDIQ Contract Level. Each Task Order will have its own COR.
42	36	G.4	1	Can personal experience be submitted for past performance?	No. The government is evaluating past performance of the offeror as a company.
43	36	G.3.1	1	What is the anticipated number of award (Large / Small) for this IDIQ?	The number of awards will be determined by the competitive process.
44	37	G.3	1	Under fair opportunity, what will be the published NOAA process, policy, and/or methodology to determine whether the small business awardees can do the work in the task order (and hence the task be set aside for small business)? Suggest NOAA develop and publicize a policy now to avoid the problems related to the NOAA Link strategic sourcing where this clarification was not done in a transparent process. If not, this uncertainty tends to keep all potential vendors in both categories expending resources toward influencing the direction of the opportunity. This advance policy will ensure better, more prepared contractors.	An ordering guide for Task Order ordering procedures has been developed and made public at (www.ProTechservices.noaa.gov). In some cases, procedures may be TO specific as needed.
45	37	G	3.1	"The OCO will then solicit proposals from the contractors within the appropriate small business category, as applicable, or open the competition to all contract holders after review and coordination with the NOAA Small Business Office and the Small Business Administration (SBA)." (1) How will the government solicit task order proposals? (2) What will be the normal turn-around time for proposal submittal at the task order level? (3) How will task order proposals be evaluated?	An ordering guide for Task Order ordering procedures has been developed and made public at (www.ProTechservices.noaa.gov). In some cases, procedures may be TO specific as needed.
46	38	G.4(h)	1	As the Government accepts past performance information for up-to the last 5 years, would the Government consider retaining past performance information for 5 years to provide accurate source selection information for future contract opportunities?	The Government will use PPIRS and FAPIIS for maintaining past performance information.
47	39	G.4	h (9)	Background: "Retention Period - The agency will retain past performance information for a maximum period of three years after completion of contract performance for the purpose of providing source selection information for future contract awards." Question: Does contract performance under this paragraph mean after an IDIQ or Task Order is complete or Enterprise Domain Contract as a whole?	Per paragraph (a) under G.4, "CPARS will be completed for the IDIQ contracts, and may be completed for task orders." Therefore, the language in (h) refers to the IDIQ and/or task orders.
48	40	G.10	1	Page 40, Section G.10 discusses the orderly transition from incumbent to successor contractor upon the expiration of either ProTech Enterprise Operations task order or the delivery period of the IDIQ contract itself. Can NOAA please provide an estimated number of current staff or current task orders that will be transitioned to ProTech Enterprise Operations?	Section G.10 refers to the orderly transition of any future ProTech task orders. It does not refer to the transition of current NOAA task orders to ProTech.
49	40	G.11	0	The RFP states "The NOAA Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO) Ombudsman is available to organizations to promote responsible and meaningful exchanges of information." Please clarify the intention of the word "organizations" in this sentence. Was this meant to cover contractors, government organizations, or both?	Both

Attachment J-4
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50	40	G.10	2	"Phase-out services shall include the training of any successor Contractor by the incumbent ProTech Enterprise Operations Contractor." Please indicate if these services will be compensated as a separate task or should be included in the pricing for all task order proposals.	Phase-out services will be specified and funded in individual task orders.
51	35-36	G.2.1.2 - G.2.1.3	0	Please clarify the distinction between the roles of the IDIQ COR and the TO COR. From the descriptions, the roles seem duplicative, including being responsible for all technical aspects of the contract and acceptance of all deliverables.	There will be one Contracting Officer assigned at the IDIQ Contract Level. Each Task Order will have a designated Ordering Contracting Officer (OCO) as defined in Section B.4.
52	37-38	G.3.1	All	Given the wide and diverse scope of work areas across the ProTech Enterprise Operations domain outlined in the RFP, please confirm that contract awardees are not required to propose against all task orders within their domain.	Confirmed
53	41, 71	G.11 (g), L.8.1	0	In G.11(g) it states that questions go to the Ombudsman. In L.8.1, it states that questions go to a non-personal email. Please clarify.	Section L.8.1 gives the email address for inquiries regarding this RFP. This address is monitored by the Enterprise Operations Domain Contracting Officer. Section G.11, paragraph 3.c provides the instructions as to when it is appropriate to contact the ombudsman. "Before consulting with the AGO Ombudsman, interested parties must first address their concerns, issues, disagreements, and/or recommendations with the respective contracting officer for resolution. However, direct access to the AGO Ombudsman may be sought when an interested party questions the objectivity or equity of a contracting officer's decision, or when there is a bona fide reason to believe that reasonable, responsible, and objective consideration will not be received from an assigned contracting officer.
54	45	H.9	0	The RFP states "The Contractor will be required to support the electronic information requirements of the portal. " Please confirm the word "support" is synonymous with the word "use" in this context. We are assuming that it means to interface with the portal only to enter and retrieve information and not to support the maintenance or ongoing developments of the portal capabilities itself (as the word "support" can mean in the context of IT systems).	Confirmed
55	46	H.11 (2)	Restrictions	The draft RFP includes 3 alternative methods for dealing with the possibility that the Enterprise Operations vendors will have access to proprietary information from other contractors. Which alternative is required for the resulting contract.	All three Alternates apply. Reference Commerce Acquisition Regulations (CAR) 1309.507-2 at http://farsite.hill.af.mil/vfcara.htm .

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56	46	H	H.11(2)(b)	Alternate III (APR 2010) The contractor may gain access to proprietary information of other companies during contract performance. The contractor agrees to enter into company-to-company agreements to protect another company's information from unauthorized use or disclosure for as long as it is considered proprietary by the other company, and to refrain from using the information for any purpose other than that for which it was furnished. For information purposes, the contractor shall furnish copies of these agreements to the Contracting Officer. Which "companies does this Section refer to? Other ProTech Enterprise Operations IDIQ Contract Holders, or other DOC companies? Please clarify.	The companies may be ProTech IDIQ contract holders as well as other contractors supporting NOAA and DOC. Contract holders are advised to consult with respective contracting officer(s) of current commitments regarding contract restrictions.
57	46	H.11	H.11(a)(2)	RFP Text: H.11 1352.209-71 LIMITATION ON FUTURE CONTRACTING (APR 2010) - (2) Restrictions: The contractor shall perform systems engineering and/or technical direction, but will not have overall contractual responsibility for the system's development, integration, assembly and checkout, or production. The parties recognize that the contractor shall occupy a highly influential and responsible position in determining the system's basic concepts and supervising their execution by other contractors. The contractor's judgment and recommendations must be objective, impartial, and independent. To avoid the prospect of the contractor's judgment or recommendations being influenced by its own products or capabilities, it is agreed that the contractor is precluded for the life of the system from award of a DOC contract to supply the system or any of its major components, and from acting as a subcontractor or consultant to a DOC supplier for the system or any of its major components. Question: As the work described in this FAR clause seems to be outside of the scope of work of the NOAA ProTech Enterprise Operations Domain, will the Government consider removing this clause?	The clause applies to the scope of work under this contract and will remain in the RFP and resultant contract award.
58	48	H	14	Please provide experience and education requirements for the proposed PM.	Specific experience and education requirements will not be provided. offerors should propose a PM with appropriate qualifications to perform the duties described in Section H.14 (a).
59	48	H	14	The RFP states "Program Manager [Name to be included at time of award] ". L.11.3.3 states, "The Offeror shall provide the resumé of the proposed Program Manager (identified as key personnel in accordance with Section H.14)." L.11.3.3 seems to require a resume in the proposal, but H.14 says time of award. Is a resume for the Program Manager required in the proposal? Is the resume excluded from the page count?	Yes, a resume for the Program Manager is required in the proposal, per Section L.11.3.3. H.14 Key Personnel will be filled in by the Government at award with the name of the PM proposed by the offeror with its proposal and accepted by the Government. Per L.11, "Exceptions to the page limitations are, if required: cover pages, key personnel resume, lists of acronyms, lists of tables, lists of figures, and indices/tables of contents."
60	48	H.14	a	Can you please provide any specific information regarding the labor category and/or the evaluation factors that will be used to evaluate proposed key personnel?	Key Personnel will be evaluated as part of the overall Management Approach discussed in Section M.5.2. Additional Key Personnel may be assigned at the Task Order level as work requirements are defined.
61	48	H.14	2	Are there any specific requirements that need to be met or are preferred for the key personnel position of Program Manager?	Specific experience and education requirements will be provided on a task order basis as requirements are known. Offerors should propose a PM with appropriate qualifications to perform the duties described in Section H.14 (a).

Attachment J-4
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Industry Questions and Answers Template (Submit by 07/14/2017)

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62	48	H	H.14	Is NOAA going to provide a LCACT description for the Program Manager role?	Specific experience and education requirements will not be provided. Offerors should propose a PM with appropriate qualifications to perform the duties described in Section H.14 (a).
63	49	H.14	(a)	NOAA should require Project Management Professional Certification for the Program Manager Key Personnel to assure expertise commensurate with this significant responsibility.	The Project Management Professional Certification for the Program Manager is not required. May be required at the task order level per task order proposal request.,
64	49	H.14	(a)	Does the PM need to be on-site, full time?	No, unless specified at the task order level.
65	44, 45	H.8 (e), H.8 (f)	0	H.8 (e) states "If Government personnel are furloughed, the Contractor shall contact the OCO, or the TO COR to receive direction. It is the Government's decision as to whether the contract price/cost will be affected." H.8 (f) states "In those situations that Government personnel are furloughed, the Contractor may not invoice for their employees working during the Government furlough, until such time as any special legislation affecting Government personnel is signed into law." We recommend that these paragraphs be amended to exclude Firm Fixed Price Task Orders since it should not apply to these types of Task Orders.	The Contractor shall contact the OCO, or the TO COR, to receive direction for individual task orders in the event of a Government furlough.
66	61-65	K	K.1-K.5	Are completed Section K and copy of SAM.gov certifications required from Subcontractors? (Also reference Page 77, Section L, Paragraph L.11.1.1 Section V)	Yes, both are required for this submission.
67	61, 76	k.1	(a) (1) - 2	If clause 52.204-7 is present in the solicitation, then paragraph (d) applies. However, Section V - Representations and Certifications states that the Offeror shall complete Section K: Representations, Certifications, and Other Statements of offerors or Respondents; and complete and provide a copy of electronic annual representations and certifications at https://www.sam.gov Does the government intent to view Certs and Reps in SAM in addition to the Offerer providing a hard copy of what is shown in SAM?	The completed Section K - Representations and Certifications and a copy of electronic annual representations and certifications at https://www.sam.gov are required.