



RETURN OF THIS AMENDMENT PAGE WITH YOUR PROPOSAL IS NOT REQUIRED.

ISSUING OFFICE:

Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Administrative Services
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RFP 2013-1800-1740 – AMENDMENT # 2

DATE AMENDMENT ISSUED: June 25, 2013

**RFP TITLE:
Tsunami Marine Debris Surveying, Monitoring,
Removal & Disposal**

SEALED PROPOSAL DUE DATE AND TIME: July 1, 2013, 1:30 p.m. Alaska Time

Offerors are not required to return this form.

The purpose of Amendment # 2: Extend question response to June 25, 2013 and include Questions & Responses

1. Question :

- a) Is there a way to get a list of interested vendors? We would like to team with another firm to increase our coverage.
- b) Is there a plan holders list available for RFP 2013-1800-1740 Tsunami Marine Debris Surveying, Monitoring, Removal and Disposal? If so, where can I find them?
- c) Will interested parties be provided with a bidder's list?

No, the registered vendors list is not public until the Notice Of Intent to Award is issued.

Per AS 36.30.230 Disclosure of proposals; return of proposals.-

"...A register of proposals containing the name and address of each offeror shall be prepared in accordance with regulations adopted by the commissioner. The register and the proposals are open for public inspection after the notice of intent to award a contract is issued under AS 36.30.365.."

2. Question:

For disposition of the waste, whether hazardous or non-hazardous, a profile must be completed to document specifications for the receiving landfill or other disposal facility. One piece of information required on a profile is the “Generator Name” for the waste. My question is who will be the generator on record for the waste collected? (ADEC?);

Contractors will be expected to coordinate the transport and disposal of ordinary marine debris to the appropriate regional landfill or recycler and to comply with the requirements of those facilities. Based on ADEC experience in past debris operations, it is not expected that those landfills will impose technical requirements such as profiles and generator names for the type of debris involved in these operations. Contractors will not be expected to collect and remove hazardous debris. Hazardous materials will be reported to ADEC, which will respond and manage those items.

3. Question:

Section 5.01 (Scope of Work), bullet #6, states that, '*all operations must comply with protocols and reporting requirements which will be provided in project RFPs.*' My question is would it be possible to receive a copy of the reporting forms to be used and the necessary protocol to be followed, since these criteria could have a great deal of impact to costs to be incurred? For example, if the protocol required that all waste be collected at low tide this would impact operational schedules; if the protocol specifies waste must be collected on shore or offshore only, this would restrict collection efforts; or if wastes “suspected” of being hazardous or to contain invasive species be left at location until agency representatives can characterize the material – this could mean going back to a location multiple times before collection/disposal could take place (adding costs to the operation for labor and equipment to remobilize).

Protocols and debris reporting requirements will require documentation only of the location (identified beach or shoreline), the general type (e.g., Styrofoam, urethane foam, plastic, buoys, and vinyl), and the quantity (e.g., cubic yard, super sack, weight) of debris collected. Hazardous materials will not be collected, but will instead be reported to ADEC for handling. Timing of cleanup operations will be dependent on tides and weather, and in some locations on wildlife habitat considerations (for example, marine mammal haul outs, bird nesting, fish cycles) but in general it will be possible to avoid rather than operate in sensitive habitats. Instructions regarding invasive species will be made available through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and contractual accommodations will be made if handling invasive species has a significant impact on a given operation. However, Based on ADEC experience in past debris operations, it is not expected that invasive species will be a significant problem.

4. Question:

Contract Term: On page 5 of the document there seems to be conflicting statements regarding the length of term of the contract. At the top of the page, the ninth bullet point states the contract starts approximately 8/1/2013 and will end on 6/30/2014. However, in Section 1.03 it states the Dept seeks to enter into term contracts for the performance of these operations over a period of up to 5 years.

- **Which statement is accurate?**

Per RFP Sections 1.03 and 1.04, the length of the initial contracts will be from approximately August 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. There is a possibility of the contract(s) being renewed on a yearly basis for four more years, through 2018, depending on funding.

5. Question:

I do not see any reference to the disposal costs of the debris that is collected and taken to landfills & recycling centers. Is the disposal cost a pass through item to the State or is the contractor directly responsible for the disposal costs and all thus have to build that cost into our pricing?

Per RFP Section 5.01 (A) Scope of Work, disposal costs will be the responsibility of the contractor and will be estimated in the funded contracts for the project RFPs which follow. Adjustments to project RFP contracts will be necessary as the volume, type, and location of debris recovered will vary in each operation.

6. Question:

Do both the Primary Contractor and its subcontractor(s) have to meet the MBE/WBE requirements in order to receive preference or can the Primary Contractor receive preference through the use of properly certified MBE/WBE subcontractors even though the primary is not an MBE or WBE?

Per Section 2.13: 5 Percent Minority Business Enterprise and Women's Business Enterprise; "...In Order to be deemed a bona fide Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) or Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) a firm must be certified by the Small Administration (SBA), other Federal or State agency, or be self-certified as an independent business concern which is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned and controlled by minority group members or women..."

The Prime Contractor that the proposal is written under is who must qualify for the MBE/WBE preference, not the subcontractors.

7. Question:

What is MBE/WBE certification?

A third-party certifying or approving, with an independent assessment, declaring that specified requirements pertaining to a product, person, process or management system have been met.

8. Question:

What is meant by "Offeror's Certification"?

An offeror's certification is a signature by offeror guaranteeing the statements are true.

9. Question:

Is this money to be used specifically for tsunami debris? Am I able to use these funds to also pick up non tsunami debris like net, line and plastic that I know is historical marine debris mixed in with tsunami debris. I would be very difficult to separate out the funds to be only for tsunami debris.

In most circumstances, it is impracticable to separate ordinary marine debris from tsunami debris. These operations are to concentrate on the collection of high windage and medium windage tsunami marine debris (e.g., Styrofoam, urethane foam, plastic, buoys, and vinyl). There is no need to try to separate tsunami debris from “ordinary” marine debris other than the requirement (last bullet in section 5.01.A of the RFP) which provides that “in limited circumstances . . . tsunami-related debris items of potential personal significance to Japan or to tsunami survivors or communities” must be retained and reported in accordance with protocols being prepared now in consultation with the Japanese consulate. These protocols will be made available to contractors as soon as possible and will not create substantial inconvenience or additional cost to contractors.

10. Question:

In skimming the RFP it looks like we are to establish a 5 day cost and a 1 day costs but without insurance. Insurance will be a significant cost. Should we just have a line that says insurance to be billed at actual expense?

Variations in the cost of insurance for each funded contract will be addressed in the Project RFPs which will follow this initial RFP. For purposes of determining the successful contractors in this initial RFP, it was determined that estimates of insurance costs would not materially add to the evaluation of the proposals and the qualifications of the respondents.

11. Question:

Is there someone who can review a draft to ensure that it is acceptable?

No. Per AS 36.30.210, Receipts for Proposals, Request for Proposals are sealed until due date. Responses to the RFP will be evaluated when received by the deadline (July 1, 2013 at 1:30 pm Alaska time).

12. Question:

Is the Vendor Tax Id the same as Federal EI number?

Yes.

13. Question:

Can the ADEC provide a list of previously awarded contracts or intent to award contracts related to tsunami debris?

Awarded contracts concerning Tsunami Debris:

14. Question:

Can a proposal for only monitoring the removal and disposal of debris be submitted separately from proposals for the actual removal and disposal?

Per RFP Section 5.01 Scope of Work; given the nature of these debris operations, which involve unique on-site field efforts and transportation complexity, the decision was made to request comprehensive responses which incorporate multiple, coordinated aspects of the debris operation – travel, removal, transport, and disposal. Entities which offer only certain services may wish to act as subcontractors with the principal contractor, but may not submit partial responses.

15. Question:

- a) There are several regions, do you anticipate having more contractors per regions?**
- b) Will this contract be split into several regions and thus among several companies?**

As the RFP states in section 1.03, “no more than three contractors will be approved per region” thus indicating that we anticipate that there may be more than one contractor qualified per region. When there is more than one contractor qualified in a region for which a project RFP is issued, there will be competitive bidding for that project RFP.

16. Question:

Are we required to bid on both A and B Scope of Work?

Per Section 1.11 of the RFP, Alternate Proposals
“Offerors may submit only one proposal for each Scope of Work (5.01A, and/or 5.01 B or both) for evaluation. In accordance with 2 AAC 12.830 alternate proposals (proposals that offer something different than what is asked for) will be rejected.

17. Question:

Can you tell me the scope of work – what beaches?

Refer to the RFP, Section Five for Scope of Work and Deliverables. Attachment #8 describes the regional beaches, the aerial survey areas and prioritized segments. Project RFPs will identify the specific areas for which contractors will be selected.

18. Question:

Is the compensation to be based on a specified length of beach, amount of material removed, or time and materials?

Per RFP Section 3.03, Contractor Selection Method for Individual Projects; Project RFPs will specify a particular geographical segment (an area of shoreline or beach) within a region and will request bids for the removal and disposal of marine debris in that area. In their responses,

contractors will offer to remove and dispose of debris from a proposed length, based on their knowledge of the location, available estimates of the amount and type of debris expected, the complexity of access, the distance to landfill, etc. The Project RFP will specify a cap on the bid amount, which will impact the contractor's bid (e.g., how much area the contractor proposes to cover). Once debris crews reach the area, adjustments to the contract will be discussed as necessary according to the weather conditions, the amount and type of debris, and other factors not reasonably ascertainable prior to the contractor's arrival on the site.

19. Question:

- a) **What are the intended disposal As for disposal, could the burnables be incinerated on the beach?**
- b) **As for disposal, could the nonhazardous burnables be incinerated on the beach?**
- c) **Is there any possibility of onshore disposal site, to be covered over at the end of the project?**

Neither incineration on site nor remote (on-site) burial are allowed at this time. Other than untreated wood debris, which will be left on site to decompose without negatively impacting the environment, all debris must be transported to landfill or recycling sites. The exception to this is hazardous items which will be reported to and addressed by ADEC, and items so large or difficult to move that special removal equipment, the assistance of USCG, etc., will be required. The experience and the judgment of the successful contractor will be essential in the evaluation of such items.

20. Question:

What are the disposal requirements for general nonhazardous debris and those for hazardous and contaminated material.

General marine debris shall be removed and transported to landfill or recycling sites where the requirements of those sites regarding reporting, weight, etc. must be met. Hazardous items will be reported to and addressed by ADEC. Specific instruction regarding hazardous and contaminated materials that require handling by ADEC specialists will be provided in the Project RFPs.

21. Question:

Will a performance bond be required and how is an "end of job" determined?

Performance bonds will not be required. During the course of each operation, the contractor must communicate with the project manager to the extent reasonably possible. Communication should address both progress and complications such as weather and travel delays, debris quantities, etc. Documentation of progress or barriers to completion (not resulting from contractor's failure to perform) in the form of photographs, weather reports, landfill receipts, etc. will be required.

22. Question:

Page 12 of the above referenced RFP states:

In order for offers to be considered responsive to the Scope of Work in Section 5.01.A offerors must document the following minimum prior experience requirements:

- 1) Marine experience (include navigation, transit and landing) in the waters and on the shorelines in every region in which the offeror is proposing to provide service. (See Attachment 8 of this RFP for a list of those regions.)

Would the State consider proposals from firms with experience in marine debris removal that have not provided debris removal services in the specific regions listed in your RFP?

Per RFP Section 2.08, Prior Experience, Offerors are not required to have experience in all the regions described and listed in Attachment 8, but they must have experience in one or more of the specific geographic segments in every region in which they propose to provide services.

23. Question:

Will this contract be split into several regions and thus among several companies?

It is expected that multiple contractors will be selected, although - as the RFP states in section 1.03 - "no more than three contractors will be approved per region."

24. Question:

- a) Will the state issue an amendment for an extension of time for submissions due to the comprehensive nature of this rfp?
- b) Do you anticipate the addendum pushing the due date?

Due to the short field season and the need to begin debris operations as soon as possible, there will be no extensions of time for responses to the RFP. The RFP was posted June 7, 2013 and due date for proposals is July 1, 2013. The RFP will have been posted on the Alaska On-Line Public Notice for twenty-four (24) days.

25. Question:

The RFP clearly states that the work scope is to address marine debris on Alaska shorelines that resulted from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Since NOAA and other debris response agencies have reported out that only a very small fraction of the marine debris impacting the shorelines of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska can be 100% linked to the Japan incident (e.g., dock at Agate Beach with Japanese identification placard) and most of the debris is plastic and Styrofoam with no distinguishing features that indicate the origin of the material:

- a) Who will make the determination as to whether or not the debris is from the 2011 Japan incident? ; and
- b) For material that is of questionable origin or known to not be Japan debris, does this material get left off the shorelines because it is out of scope?

In most circumstances, it is impracticable to separate ordinary marine debris from tsunami debris. These operations are to concentrate on the collection of high windage and medium windage tsunami marine debris (e.g., Styrofoam, urethane foam, plastic, buoys, and vinyl). There is no need to try to separate tsunami debris from "ordinary" marine debris other than the

requirement (last bullet in section 5.01.A of the RFP) that “in limited circumstances . . . tsunami-related debris items of potential personal significance to Japan or to tsunami survivors or communities” must be retained and reported in accordance with protocols being prepared now in consultation with the Japanese consulate. These protocols will be made available to contractors as soon as possible and will not create substantial inconvenience or additional cost to contractors.

- c) **Are selected contractors responsible for characterizing, transporting and disposing of hazardous waste found to be associated with the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami? Hazardous waste as defined by the USEPA**
<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/wastetypes/index.htm>

See question 2 above.

No, contractors will not be expected to collect and remove hazardous debris. Hazardous materials will be reported to ADEC, which will respond and manage those items.

- d) **If the answer to question #3 above is “yes”, are vessels that transport hazardous waste required to be 40 CFR 260.10 *licensed hazardous waste transporters with EPA ID numbers*?**

No response required because the answer to previous question is “NO”

- e) **Does the ADEC protocol to be used by successful contractors to monitor, survey, remove and dispose of the 2011 Japan debris address handling of hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste and waste containing invasive species?**

Hazardous materials will not be removed or transported by contractors (see previous answers). Instructions regarding potentially hazardous species will be provided. Those instructions will not require substantial additional, costly, or unusual efforts on the part of the contractor.

- f) **Please define “hazardous objects and materials” as specified in the RFP?**

Hazardous materials will not be removed or transported by contractors (see previous answers). Additional questions regarding hazardous materials can be asked and answered during the Project RFP process for successful responders.

- g) **When a selected contractor is awarded a contract and project for marine debris removal, what is the protocol that the contractor must use to validate that their target location has been cleaned and that their invoices will be paid accordingly?**

Per RFP Section 5.02 Deliverables, contractors will be required to submit before and after photographs of the sites and the transportation of debris (e.g., photographs of marine vessels with debris loads), and to document in writing (using simple debris disposal forms to be provided by ADEC) the nature and amount of debris removed, and to provide landfill and recycling receipts whenever possible.

26. Question:

The volume and extent of potentially hazardous materials and hazardous objects from tsunami marine debris is unknown. A quick Google image search of “Tsunami Marine Debris Alaska” will result in pictures of small plastic containers and large metal drums co-located with foam, line, plastic, and Styrofoam on Alaska beaches. Prior to any transportation and to ensure regulatory compliant disposal, containers bearing unknown liquids or solids will need to be characterized via laboratory analysis. Do you want laboratory analysis included as part of the shipping/recycling/disposal costs and if so, how do we account for this unknown amount in the proposal (we do not know how many samples will be collected and submitted for analysis)?

Hazardous materials will not be removed or transported by contractors (see previous answers).

27. Question:

Is the State coordinating the beach cleanup efforts with the any nonprofit group, US Coast Guard or any other Federal entity in any way?

ADEC, NOAA, and contractors in other known debris operations will communicate and coordinate to the extent reasonably possible with the contractors in the Project RFPs that will follow this RFP. There is a huge expanse of areas targeted for cleanup, and there is no competition for sites to work. The Project RFP specifications will be flexible enough to allow coordination to avoid duplication of efforts or other complications.

28. Question:

- a) Is dimensional lumber considered Tsunami Marine Debris? If so, is there a distinction between “raw” dimensional lumber or painted/treated dimensional lumber as Tsunami Marine Debris?
- b) If painted/treated dimensional lumber is considered Tsunami Marine Debris, will we need to check for lead based paint?

Untreated wood debris such as ordinary dimensional lumber is to be left on site to decompose when it appears that this can be done without negatively impacting the environment. Contractors will be expected to use good judgment in assessing whether lumber or other building materials should be brought to a landfill. The likelihood that contractors will find a substantial quantity of dimensional lumber with lead-based-paint is small, but in such circumstances a contractor will have the option to leave such items on site or consult with ADEC..

29. Question:

Are small bits of Styrofoam to be removed from the beaches e.g. Styrofoam peanuts?

Contractors are expected to use good judgment in determining the size of foam debris to collect. It will not be reasonable or cost-effective (time-effective) to try to remove peanut-sized

Styrofoam (one inch) pieces. There is no expectation that beaches or shorelines will be 100% pristine.

30. Question:

Before and after pictures are a required deliverable, weather permitting. Are you looking for a general landscape picture demonstrating cleanup progress?

As discussed above, before and after pictures are intended to document both the progress of individual cleanup and the general condition of beaches and shorelines at the end of the season.

31. Question:

Would it be possible to have the aerial survey completed by a contractor before the marine debris removal activity take place? The idea being that the marine debris contractor would use the aerial surveying information to identify the number of potential hazardous material containers prior to mobilization. Essentially, any information to the number of potential hazardous waste sources would help us create a better cost proposal.

Contractors are not responsible for removing or transporting hazardous debris materials, so the presence or absence of those items will have little impact on debris removal operations. The question of “hazardous waste sources” is not relevant to the development of the sample cost proposal required in this RFP.

The selection of the geographic segments which will be the target areas for debris operations funded in the Project RFPs (which will follow this RFP) will be addressed by ADEC in consultation with NOAA, land managers, and other entities with information about current debris accumulations. The availability of updated aerial survey information is not relevant to the cost proposal required in this RFP.

The link for the DEC page on marine debris hazardous items is:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/marinedebris/marine%20Debris%20guidance%20ver2.pdf>

Comment:

- a) In reviewing the referenced RFP, we noted that firms that do not have experience on debris removal projects in the last 5 years really need not reply since their proposal will be considered non-responsive. This requirement effectively eliminates from consideration many Alaskan companies such as ours who may have requisite skills and experience in Alaskan waters to effectively, safely and efficiently complete the contemplated work. Since there are few projects of this type and more specifically, few opportunities to gain the requisite experience, when RFPs are written to eliminate those with no projects under their belt, it stifles competitors and creates barriers to entry.

- b) Our company specializes in remote logistics, marine freight, marine fuel, passengers, shore facilities, and power. We do not believe, from a cursory review of the RFP, that there are any aspects of the marine portion of the contemplated project that we could not perform, however we do not have any specific project experience to make it worth our while to respond to the RFP as written. Perhaps someone will seek us out as a subcontractor, but we would hope that you will remove such restrictive covenants to provide opportunities to Alaskan companies in future solicitations.

Marine debris removal work on remote beaches and shorelines is unlike any other marine-based operation. Safety, environmental protection and responsible reporting are some of our primary concerns. It has been determined that both site-specific and operation-specific experience are beneficial in order to maximize the effectiveness of the limited funds available for the enormous size and scope of the cleanup at hand. The specifications were written to insure the highest caliber of competitive bidding. Numerous Alaskan organizations and entities have successfully performed marine debris operations throughout Alaska during the last decade, following the protocols and standards utilized in the development of the present RFP.

Contact the ADEC Procurement Officer if any questions:

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