

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

DATE: 8/23/2024

RFP N00038756C
“IR Camera Controllers”

Proposals are due on or before 3:00 o’clock P.M. on October 30, 2024.

1. Question: Is it possible to have an NDA with Raytheon to get their DKIST ROIC ICD?

Answer: AURA cannot advise whether Raytheon would allow an NDA. AURA anticipates that this project does not require an NDA with Raytheon. If needed, that can be requested from Raytheon. No guarantees can be made whether one would be granted by Raytheon.

AURA may provide an NDA upon request.

2. Question: Where could I find the published questions (if any). The link below doesn’t say.

Answer: Answers to questions will be posted as an RFP amendment on the original bid opportunities site where this solicitation is found. Link is below.

<https://auracas.aura-astronomy.org/aura-bid-opportunities/>

3. Question: I read in the solicitation that this will be a fixed price contract but also read in a different section that AURA is open to other contract types like T&M. Can you please confirm if it is FFP?

Answer: AURA anticipates a fixed price contract; however, if your firm would like to propose a different type, we would evaluate that proposal of a different contract type as either best value to AURA or not.

4. Question: I would like to ask if you have a budget range in mind. The reason for my question is that I know that design engineers have a tendency to overdesign and add all sorts of bells and whistles if they are not restricted by a cost target.

Answer: AURA cannot release budget information. Proposals should be limited to specifications.

5. Question: Can you share a block diagram that shows what the new electronics controller plugs into and what the interfaces are? This would be helpful.

Answer: The controller has two interfaces: one to the sensor (versi multi-pin connector) and one to a computer.

6. Question: What is the involvement of Malone Aerospace and any other contractors in the project?

Answer: Malone Aerospace acts as an independent contractor for AURA's IR camera technical consultant contract. There is no conflict of interest with any vendors consulting on this RFP.

7. Question: Can we take any exceptions to the spec or are you only interested in proposals that meet 100% of the requirements? (note that we are not necessarily planning any exceptions, just wondering)

Answer: Exceptions are allowed and will be evaluated as meeting or not meeting specifications. Any exceptions should be made in accordance with RFP Documents, specifically, in accordance with article 5, section 2, paragraph B. We are open to other options or suggestions from offerors, even based on existing products.

8. Question: Are the Rights in the bid instructions negotiable? This question is about the statement in the bid instructions that says "Contractor shall grant to NSF an irrevocable, worldwide, nonexclusive, royalty-free license to use, display, disclose, reproduce or modify (and to permit others to use, display, disclose, reproduce or modify), for any purpose whatsoever, the following items"

We could start the design with a blank sheet of paper or we could use an existing design to base the solution upon. The latter will be faster, cheaper and less risky, but we would prefer not to hand over rights to reproduce something that is a current product. I am interested in your thoughts on that.

Answer: Yes, this is negotiable.