

RFP FS-LC-0002 Rv. B Questions/Responses

1. I see the qualification forms (Q and S) and the qualification letter and instructions. I'm a bit confused about what actually should be submitted with the bid (after the bidder is qualified). Are there instructions elsewhere that I'm missing that lay this out? **Form Q & S are to be returned as the Bidder's response to the Draft RFP. The Final RFP will include additional Forms that pertain to pricing, rates, execution plan, quality assurance, work schedule etc.**
2. Possibly related, there's a reference to a "Final RFP" being given to qualified bidders. Is that something different from what is available now? If so, can we see a draft of that? **The Final RFP will include accepted comments received on the Draft RFP, technical specifications and pricing sheets, invoicing requirements, milestone payment schedule and additional submittal requirement noted in item #1 above. The Scope of Work (SOW) FS-LC-0001/2 and RFP documents will be updated to include these items.**
3. Will bidders be allowed to suggested changes to the scope of work/tech requirements/and T&Cs? It seems like they will given the note on the evaluation document regarding "Impacts to Owner resulting from Bidders specific Exceptions". **AEP has stated that comments to the "Draft" RFP documents are to be submitted by 12/5/19 for consideration of inclusion in the SOW document. Additionally, Bidders will be given another opportunity to take any Commercial and/or Technical Exceptions to the SOW in their Final Proposal due on 3/12/19 if they choose. Upon review of their proposal to the Final RFP, AEP may choose to accept or reject or modify clarifications and/or assign an estimated risk value for including these Contractor's Exceptions in the agreement to re-align the pricing/SOW with the other Contractor's that did not take this exception if the Contractor is un-willing to remove them from the agreement.**
4. I'm not sure what is meant by "Owner's estimated cost impacts resulting from equitable amount of Extra Work for each Bidder utilizing fixed estimated hour and applying hourly rates and/or Sub-Contractor mark-up submitted by Bidder" Can you all clarify? **Bidders will be asked to submit mark-up percentages for materials, equipment and labor for Extra Work authorized on the Cost-plus basis during execution of the Work. AEP will estimate that each Contractor will perform "X" amount of extra work (to purchase additional materials and labor required) that was missed in the Contract document and apply this factor to each Contractor for this "X" amount of work. This calculation is different than additional Extra Work costs for Technical Exceptions.**
5. Appendix 4 - Section 4.4 states that the project shall meet minimum performance requirements as set forth in the RFP. Where are these requirements? **These performance requirements are Confidential and will be included in the Final RFP in which a Mutual Confidentiality agreement will be set in place.**

6. Our suggestion would be to increase the “price” component of the bid score. 40% price is a pretty low number for a price score. In a standard RFP I’d say it should be at least 60%. This makes the bidding and evaluation a bit more transparent (i.e. low-price offer wins). It seems like you have some of your safety concerns taken care of with the qualification requirements. **AEP has revised the scoring for the components as follows: Total Evaluated Cost: 60 points, Safety Performance: 25 points and Construction & Environmental Execution Plan: 15 points.**
7. Why is the NTP date so late? August 21, 2021 seems pretty late given the December due date. **The gap between Contract Award and NTP (of 1-year) is to secure OK regulatory approval.**
8. Form Q Col C – sections 2.2, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2 – multiple typo/spelling errors. I’d just run a spellcheck. **This comment is valid and we’ve made corrections—the changes do not impact the meaning of these sections.**
9. The bid evaluation procedures for the PV project do refer to preferred PV panels. Has AEP selected its preferred providers? **PV Panel manufacturer’s will be included in the FINAL RFP document.**
10. Owner reserves the right to not continue to the Detailed Analysis stage of evaluation for Proposals based on a furnished firm price disproportionate with the other Bidders, but agrees to perform a Detailed Analysis of at least three (3) bids received (provided three eligible bids are received). Could AEP/PSO explain with more clarity what this provision entitles them to do? In what circumstances would this be invoked to prevent a detailed analysis? **The intent of this statement is essentially to permit AEP to forgo the time and expense of performing a Detailed Analysis for proposals that appear to be unreasonably out of the range of submitted bids and indicative prices. These efforts include preparation and record-keeping for post-bid interactions with Bidders during the Detailed Analysis phase. Please see the below example:**

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>BID PRICE</u>	<u>Complexity of Exceptions taken to: Technical/T&C’s Items and Payment Terms</u>
1	\$5M	Moderate
2	\$5.5M	Minimal
3	\$6M	Moderate/Many
4	\$7M	Minimal
5	\$9M	Moderate
6	\$10M	Minimal

Under this scenario, we would conduct post-bid discussions with Bidders 1, 2, 3 & 4 and not take the time to have any formal post-bid discussions with bidders 5 & 6. However, we would still “score or evaluate” bidders 5 & 6 to the best of our ability with the information received from the initial bid, w/o introducing the time & complexity of the formal and complete Detailed Analysis phase.

11. Can AEP describe how the minimum safety requirements shown in Section 6.1 of the Instructions for Bidder Qualifications document and on Form S were established? **Response pending.**

12/5/19

1. As we already have a functioning Ariba Account, how are we to request/ gain access to the AEP specific Ariba Portal? **Following submittal and AEP review of Form Q and S, instructions will be sent to each approved Bidder to complete a "New Supplier Registration" and the Customer Requested Profile for AEP.**
2. Per the RFP technical conference, the one-year gap from Contract Award to Proceed was for regulatory filings. Can you better define "NTP"? Can design and permitting start at Contract Award or is that restricted to the NTP? **No work shall be performed until the NTP.**
3. Section 2.8 of the Scope of Work references unexploded ordinances deeper than 24". Does this condition exist for the entire parcel available for solar PV or is it restricted to certain areas? It would be easiest if the available area for the PV system is outlined and the area(s) with ordinance further delineated as well. **AEP will furnish the Munitions & Explosives of Concern (MEC) Study performed under the direction of the US Army with the Final RFP.**
4. Please provide the approved means and methods of conducting a Geotechnical investigation on the property the area where un-exploded ordinance exists? **AEP will furnish the Munitions & Explosives of Concern (MEC) Study performed under the direction of the US Army with the Final RFP.**
5. Please define what risk and potential exists for unexploded ordinances to vehicular traffic during installation? **AEP will furnish the Munitions & Explosives of Concern (MEC) Study performed under the direction of the US Army with the Final RFP.**
6. What is the approved method of scanning for un-exploded ordinance? Can this be completed by the base for selected areas where excavation is required? **AEP will furnish the Munitions & Explosives of Concern (MEC) Study performed under the direction of the US Army with the Final RFP.**
7. Section 2.13 of the Scope of Work reference an Owner's geotechnical report was completed and included in Appendix 4. There doesn't appear to be a geotechnical report included in Appendix 4? **The geotechnical report will be included in the Final RFP - Appendix 4.**
8. As the project is located on federal lands, can you confirm all applicable permitting process(s) and timeline anticipated for each? **To be furnished in Final RFP.**
9. Who will be responsible for the interconnection application fees, study costs, and any subsequent utility construction upgrade fees required by the utility? **Owner.**
10. Has a proposed SLD been created and submitted to the Utility? Please advise on the point of interconnection and pertinent requirements. **To be furnished in Final RFP.**
11. Has a formal system size AC been defined or energy (kWh) target been obtained for the EPC to design for? **No more than as shown in Article 1.1 of GEN-PV-2019 in Appendix 4.**

12. Please clarify what if any, work hour limitations are for individual personnel? This can be broken out by type of work as necessary. **Work hour/day restrictions are identified in Article 6.0 of Appendix 2 – Supplemental Safety & Health T&Cs.**
13. Section 9.3.1 reference Owner-Furnished facilities; Is the contractor responsible for providing an office trailer and furnishings for the owner? **Yes.**
14. Section 10.3 and Appendix 1 appear to be in conflict for timeline to notify owner of unknown conditions or changes. Can you please clarify what the requirements will be? **This response assumes the question refers to a potential conflict between Section 10.3 of FS-LC-0002 Rv.B and Article 2.3 of the Terms and Conditions in Appendix 1 (since no article from Appendix 1 was indicated.) These statements do not conflict. Article 2.3 in Appendix 1 applies only to the conditions identified in items a) thru c) only of this article – which are subsurface, geological or artifact in nature. Article 10.3 applies to notice for any/all items that Contractor deems to be Changes in Work items. Furthermore, Article 2.3 in Appendix 1 refers to “immediate notice as required above and confirmed in writing within ten days of discovery” of which the “immediate notice” timeframe is not defined and is not the same as “....confirmed in writing within ten (10) days of discovery”. The “immediate notice” term is then defined by Article 10.3 in the SOW specification to be “....within one (1) work day of its discovery....”.**
15. Section 9.1.3 – indicates a plan for protection of supplies from weather. Typically, the equipment is all outdoor rated and thus, storage outside in the elements is not an issue. Please confirm if storage within approved means by the manufacturer is acceptable and would negate further protection requirements. **Article 9.1.3 of FS-LC-0002 applies to the Work.**
16. Section 11.8 indicates that a physical barrier is required for all trenching. Being that the construction is within a controlled site for authorized personnel as well as the need to open up long trench runs can this requirement be revisited? **Yes.**
17. Appendix 4 section 2.15 indicates that AC power shall be provided to tracker motors. If AC power is not required by the manufacturer chosen will this be acceptable? **Exceptions to this requirement will be evaluated prior to Final RFP.**
18. Appendix 4 section 2.18 indicates that the plant controller shall meet GEN4550 Sola project technical specification. Please provide a copy of the specification and indicate what applicable sections are anticipated. **GEN-4550 Rv. 5 was included in Appendix 4.**
19. Appendix 4 section 3.6 indicates other studies that may be required. Please advise if the customer has any reason to believe these would be required. For example, any known soil conditions which would require a cathodic protection system or if for an unmanned site where a lighting study would be required. **These studies are required.**
20. Appendix 4 section 6.9 indicates that secondary containment may be required. Please clarify if this is required and if any further definition of the requirements for containment will be necessary. **Containment shall be furnished by Contractor in accordance with SOW Specification FS-LC-0002.**
21. Please advise if there are any restriction of approved means and methods for above ground wire management. **To be furnished in Final RFP.**
22. Appendix 4 Section 4.10 provides reference to RTO enhanced inverter requirements. Please provide a copy of the requirements. **To be furnished in Final RFP.**

December 10, 2019

23. Appendix 4 indicate that a plant control room is required. Please provide an outline of requirements for the plant control room and control system infrastructure. **Additional details will be provided in Final RFP.**