

## ANSWERS to QUESTIONS

1.) Due date – On the first page of the solicitation (Form 1449) It states that the due state is April 8th, 2015 at 1200. In the email and further down in the solicitation, it states that the due date is April 9th, 2015 at 12:00. Could you please confirm the due date? We'd also like to note that on April 8th, all suppliers will be attending an all-day USAID Suppliers meeting, so from a suppliers perspective, it would helpful for the solicitation to be due on April 9th.

**Answer:** Due Date: April 9, 2015 at 1200

2.) Stocking level – The solicitation states that awardees are to keep 500 MT of product in stock. Could you please clarify if this is: 500 MT of RUSF, or 500 MT of RUTF, or a combination of both (250 MT RUTF and 250 MT RUSF)? Or are awardees expected to keep 500 MT of both products in stock?

**Answer:** Requirement is for 500 nmt. (500 nmt for RUTF and 0 nmt for RUSF ) RUSF may be purchased under this BPA. However the Contractor is not required to stock RUSF. The production time for RUSF will be negotiated at time of award of individual purchase order(PO)/contract.

3.) Duration of BPA – Could you please confirm that the initial Base Period of Performance is a six month period (April 15, 2015 – October 15, 2015), with the option to extend for additional six month terms? The Base Period of Performance dates referred to in the solicitation are an 18 month period: April 15, 2015 – October 14, 2016.

**Answer:** April 15, 2015 – October 14, 2015

4.) Pricing and Item Purchase Description (IPD)

a. Could you please clarify to what dates/time period we are to submit pricing for the initial six months? Is this the first box of the IPD on page 9 that says “Agreement Base Period”?

**Answer:** Please submit for April 15, 2015 – October 14, 2015

b. Must we also fill in “Agreement Option Period 1 - 4” or are these submitted at the time of future extension?

**Answer:** Please provide price for base period and all option periods

c. As the solicitation mentions both RUTF and RUSF, should we submit a separate price for each product, or one price for both products?

**Answer:** You may submit price as appropriate. Amendment 1 provides two spaces for prices

d. Is the price submitted per metric ton? Or per 500 MT?

**Answer:** Please submit for per one (1) nmt

5.) Specifications/CID

a. The BPA only includes the CID for RUTF. For RUSF, would suppliers be required to meet the specifications under RUSF CID USAID - A-A-20362?

**Answer:** CID 20362 is still the reference specification for RUSF, unless otherwise parameters are specified in this solicitation.

b. The Parameter table on page 6 includes Vitamin A and Vitamin C min and max levels that do not correspond with the levels indicated in the RUTF CID. Please confirm if we should make formula changes to our current product based on this table or if we should continue to meet the requirements for Vitamin A and Vitamin C listed in the RUTF CID.

**Answer:** Current levels of Vitamin A and C in CID is still acceptable and thus suppliers do not have to change current formula for this BPA.

c. The Parameters table does not correspond with the Parameters table in the CID (in terms of what suppliers are expected to include on the COA), could you please clarify if we are to only include Protein, Fat, Water activity, Vitmain A, Vitamin C, Iron, Enterobacteriaceae, and Salmonella on our COA (or should we also continue to include energy, Thiamin, and Melamine, coliform, yeast, mild, C. perfringens, Pathogenic Staphylococci, Listeria, E.coli and total aflatoxin as is required in the CID)?

**Answer:** Parameters in solicitation supersedes what's in current CIDs for CoA compliance, as it would reduce cost with not repercussion on quality assurance. Please only report on Protein, Fat, Water activity, Vitmain A, Vitamin C, Iron, Enterobacteriaceae, and Salmonella. Also note that this requirement is only for finished product.

6.) On site inspectors – The BPA states that “Contract from this BPA shall provide the government quality assurance at source. The Government, through USDA Agricultural and Service Marking shall weigh, audit, inspect, and test the product offered in performance of the contract”

a. Does this statement mean that there will be onsite USDA AMS inspectors required during the production period? Or will supplier be sending samples directly to the AM laboratory for testing as we do now?

**Answer:** There will not be USAID/AMS inspectors on site but samples for continuous monitoring in a per lot basis must be sent to AMS' labs for testing.

b. If USDA AMS inspectors will be required on site, should we include the cost of this as part of our per MT product cost?

**Answer:** USDA/AMS inspectors are not expected on site.

7.) Submission – From the solicitation, we understand that we could use the Standard Form 1449 (<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/forms/download/115922>), and we should follow the guidelines listed in Federal Acquisition Regulation clause 52.212-1 ([http://www.acquisition.gov/far/html/52\\_212\\_213.html](http://www.acquisition.gov/far/html/52_212_213.html)).

a. In what format and to what level of detail would you like the response to “technical capability of the offering manufacturer/supplier”? Please confirm that submission of a completed Standard Form 1449 with additional pages on company letter head that cover supplier technical capabilities and past performance would be acceptable.

**Answer:** Submission on 1449 may be used but is not required. Provide documents stating the technical capabilities and experience of the company. Maximum pages: 20 pages

b. Any further clarification you can provide on how to submit our response would be greatly appreciated.

**Answer:** Submit response with a proposal to the Contracting Officer identified in the solicitation.

8.) Extent of Obligation – We understand that the Government is not obliged to take any product stocked by a supplier awarded an agreement. We understand that the obligation by the supplier would be to stock 500 MT with FOB-readiness within 10 days.

a. Please confirm if this is 10 business days or 10 calendar days.

**Answer:** 10 business days

b. Please confirm that if the Government submits a PO to a supplier awarded an agreement, that the supplier is not contractually obligated to fulfill that PO until it is accepted and signed by the supplier.

**Answer:** That is correct. Contract becomes effective once it is signed by both the Contracting Officer and the Contractor

c. We understand that after the 500 MT of stock is purchased by the Government that suppliers are obligated to restock to a level of 500 MT. Please confirm that a PO from the Government for quantities >500 MT would allow a lead time longer than 10 days

**Answer:** Yes the Contractor is required to have 500 nmt. The lead time for over 500 nmt of RUTF purchase or any quantity of RUSF purchase will be negotiated at time of PO.

d. We understand that product must not be older than 4 months from production at the time of PO. Please confirm that the Government is committed to open communication with suppliers around stocking and shelf life, such that no product is deemed unnecessarily unusable because it was not able to be shipped within this narrow window. In addition, by allowing suppliers to use Commercially labeled products and affixing USAID branding (such as stickers on boxes), product nearing 4 months post production could be rotated through other customers. Would this be considered?

**Answer:** USAID is committed to open communication with suppliers around stocking and shelf life. USAID would allow product without any USAID logo or identifying markings to be used for other customers.