Response to Bidders' Questions

Performance Audit Services
CIRM RFP #2272

1. Would it be possible to receive a Word version of Attachment 2 and Attachment 3 of the RFP?

   Response: Yes. Attachments 1, 2 and 3 are posted on the CIRM website at: http://www.cirm.ca.gov/additional-details-request-proposals-2272-fiscal-year-2010-11-performance-audit-services

2. What type of performance metrics, if any, does CIRM track and monitor of its administrative activities?

   Response: This information will be provided to the successful bidder after contract award.

3. Does this solicitation include a minimum DVBE participation or goal?

   Response: No, this solicitation does not include a minimum DVBE participation or goal.

4. Question: Are there small business or DVBE requirements or evaluation preferences for this contract?

   Response: No, this solicitation does not include small business or DVBE requirements or evaluation preferences.

5. Our company has not done any performance audit but our sub contractor has done. Can we use their documents in order to get the contract.

   Response: No. The primary contractor must comply with the requirements stated in RFP #2272, Section D. Bidder's Qualifications on page 18. The primary contractor may submit sub-contractors' work products as supplemental, supporting information. However, the subcontractors' work products will not be considered as satisfying the requirements of Section D.

6. One of your requirements is to have 3 performance audit experience [sic] with Government. Our sub-contractor has a vast expereince [sic] and highly skilled in this field and they have the best pacakage [sic] for the audit and have done many of them for the commercial and non government organizations. Would this be acceptable?

Response: See response to Question #5.

7. I am interested in proposing on the CIRM performance audit. I have extensive experience in performance audits, organization and management studies, and grants administration with California state and local government agencies. However, I do not meet one of your bidder qualifications (i.e., 2 performance audit reports within the past 5 years). Would you consider easing that requirement to (a) allow other types of sample work products and/or (b) allow performance audit reports going back longer than 5 years for certified California small businesses that may not specialize in performance audits?

   Response: See Amendment #1 to RFP 2272, which can be found on the CIRM website: http://www.cirm.ca.gov/additional-details-request-proposals-2272-fiscal-year-2010-11-performance-audit-services

8. What does the overall organizational hierarchy look like? Total # of CIRM resources broken down by role, functional office or responsibility?

   Response: The CIRM organizational chart can be found on the CIRM website at: http://www.cirm.ca.gov/Jobs_RFPs

9. Do all users have access to all systems or data within the systems or is this determined/managed by role or functional office? Who or what is managing this process?

   Response: This information will be provided to the successful bidder after contract award.

10. How are grants administration / monitoring functions transitioned between CIRM resources based on workload or staffing changes?

    Response: This information will be provided to the successful bidder after contract award.

11. How are the existing policies and procedures related to contracts, grants administration and intellectual property incorporated into new staff or on-boarding exercises?

    Response: This information will be provided to the successful bidder after contract award.

12. What are the funding sources for the grants/loans? (Is it only the $3 billion in bond funding?)

    Response: See RFP #2272, Section A.2.a, first paragraph, page 1. All grants and loans have been made from the $3 billion authorized by Proposition 71.

13. What regulations govern program design?

Response: See RFP #2272, Appendix 2, page 39. All CIRM regulations are shown on this page: http://www.cirm.ca.gov/cirm-operations/Regulations

14. For the review of a representative sample of contracts and representative sample of grants/loans, has CIRM established what a representative sample is, or will they rely upon the contractors determination within the Audit Plan?

    Response: The performance auditor will be expected to identify in the detailed audit plan the methodology and audit procedures to be used for gathering and analyzing evidence, including the specific steps, sample size, and tests the auditor will perform.

15. Name, #, type of systems being used within CIRM for financial and data management & tracking.

    Response: The systems have been identified in RFP #2272.

16. Will contractor have access to CalSTARs?

    Response: CIRM does not have access to CalSTARs. CIRM's annual financial audit covers most of the accounting function, including formal testing of accounting transactions. The scope of the performance audit should not duplicate formal testing of accounting transactions currently performed by the financial auditor. Bidders must state in their proposal why they want access to CalSTARs and how they will use the data. If the successful bidder provides a compelling reason for access, CIRM will arrange for access.

17. Are the grants processes and controls centrally performed or are they spread out over multiple locations?

    Response: Grants processes and controls are performed in CIRM's office at 210 King Street in San Francisco, California. CIRM contracts out its accounting function to the California Department of General Services.

18. The RFP indicates that the winning bidder must comply with the terms and conditions in CIRM's standard independent consultant agreement. However, certain conditions, as written, violate independence standards under GAGAS or are not applicable to a performance audit. To comply with GAGAS, we would propose changes to the following sections, among others:
    a. IX. Property rights, including patents and copyrights
    b. X. Indemnification clause
    c. XII. Examination of records

    Is CIRM willing to accept changes to the standard terms and conditions to allow the auditors to comply with GAGAS?

Response: Bidders must propose any changes to the standard terms and conditions in their proposal. The CIRM Proposal Review Team will consider the proposed changes in its evaluation of the proposal. Any changes to the standard terms and conditions will be negotiated with the successful bidder prior to contract award. CIRM's intent is to enter into an agreement that complies with both GAGAS and CIRM's contracting policies.

19. Applicable Professional Standards. [Bidder] and CIRM will want to ensure that the contract complies with, and is construed to be compliant with, applicable professional standards. This protects CIRM and [Bidder] from any challenge by regulatory agencies or other persons or entities that CIRM and/or [Bidder] are failing to observe applicable professional standards. [Bidder] would suggest adding a general provision stating that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Agreement, to the extent that any applicable audit or professional standard conflicts with a term of the Agreement, the applicable audit or professional standard shall control. Such a provision will protect CIRM and [Bidder] by ensuring that nothing in the contract can be construed as violating any professional standard. Is CIRM willing to add the above language to the terms and conditions?

    Response: See response to Question #18.