

Q&As

Submitted quotes must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by one of the following methods: (a) By completing the contractor acknowledgement and returning 1 copy of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the quote submitted; or (c) By separate letter or electronic communication which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers.

FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF QUOTES PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR QUOTE.

If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change a quote already submitted, such change may be made by letter or electronic communication, provided each letter or electronic communication makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.

CONTRACTOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER

CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR SIGNATURE

DATE

Question 1: “I need clarification in regards to the amount of arm guards. Is it two or three all together?”

Answer 1: Per the SOW, “There will be one armed security guard required 24 hours every day and one additional armed security guard (2 guards total) on regular business days (excluding holidays and weekends) for the Center that will be onsite from 6:00 am – 2:00 pm ET.”

Question 2: “Can we use the past performance from our key personnel on this project? Our Corporate security chief has been in charge of level 3 or higher facility for well over decade. We would like to use some of his experience in our PPQ.”

Answer 2: No, experience from key personnel will not meet the solicitation requirements. The intent of the technical factor is for the business to have the experience.

Question 3: “In the contract, it lists no details on the patrol services. It does not specify how long or how far. Also will there need to be a vehicle?”

Answer 3: Yes, there is a vehicle provided for the safety patrols. Patrols are defined in Section 4 Security Force Duties of the SOW. Please refer to updated SOW with Attachment 1 for additional patrol details. Based on the number of stops listed, the patrol route takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Question 4: “How do you define BioHazard Site level 3? How many are there? Are there any equivalents to these types of sites that you can reference?”

Answer 4: Descriptions of biosafety levels for laboratories can be found at: <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/research/biodefense-biosafety-labs>. Both the Russell Research Center and Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory have BSL-3 research spaces.

Question 5: “Armed State licensed Security agencies are authorized to carry semi-automatic ammunition with the caliber size of 45 caliber or smaller which includes the most commonly carried rounds of ammunition which are 40 caliber and 9 mm. The specs as written state only 9 mm ammunition is authorized. Can the specs be amended to authorize 40 caliber ammunition also?”

Answer 5: If the guard company prefers to provide 40 caliber, then the company will submit the planned firearms and they will be approved for use as long as they comply with the state requirements.

Question 6: “Is there an exception with the Contractor specifications where it states, personal weapons must not be used. Most licensed armed Security personal possess their own full-size firearm such as a Glock or similar which is suitable for the work to be performed. If the specifications require the Contractor to provide and own the firearms that will include a cost of \$700-\$1000 per firearm that USNPRC will incur. If Contractor is required to provide firearms, that the Contractor owns, a gun safe will be required at the work site.”

Answer 6: Bid according to the statement of work. The intent of stating the Security Force personnel should not bring their own firearms is to prevent inconsistent firearms for the Security Force. Stating the Contractor is in charge of the firearms issued aids in ensuring the proper working order and maintenance of the firearms on site at USNPRC. If the contractor can provide documentation of a firearm maintenance program and a detailed list of the firearms to be used at the location, it should be sufficient to meet these concerns. The bid should include everything required to comply with the requirement.

Question 7: “Specialized Training: Security Force will be required to attend annual bio-safety/bio-security training given by USNPRC safety staff. This training may occur more than once a year, depending on the situation. Contract should have provision where the Contractor will be reimbursed for personnel attending this training since it is unknown how many training sessions will occur beyond one based on situations. Contractor needs to know how many hours is this initial training to include in cost proposals.”

Answer 7: Annual biosafety and biosecurity training will last a period of 1-hour

Question 8: “Security Force Supervisor should make safety staff aware of new hires, so that an initial On-Boarding training may be conducted. How many hours is the initial on-boarding training so the Contractor can include in cost proposals.”

Answer 8: Initial onboarding training will last a period of 1-hour

Question 9: “Scope and requirements does not specific a “Security Supervisor” role and billable hours, however throughout the requirements reference is made to a Security Supervisor and no Security Force member will leave their post until they are properly relieved except in the event of fire, explosion or similar disaster where their life is in immediate danger. Properly relieved is defined by the on-coming Safety Officer ore relieved at the direction of the Supervisor.”

Answer 9: Supervision/management of the guard force is part of the contractor’s overhead. There is no specific hours detailed because that is up to the contractor to propose how to manage the force. There are 2 guards on during the busiest shift of the day to ensure continuous presence. However, during the hours with only one guard there will be short periods where they will not be available. The guardhouse has it’s own restroom and that will not be considered leaving his post.

Question 10: “Scope and requirements does not specific a “Relief Security Force Officer” to break the Security Force for restroom and meal breaks, is this an over sight that was not added? Security Supervisor manages the operation, scheduling and other issues, Security Force Relief officers relieve the Security Force Officers for restroom and meal breaks.”

Answer 10: During the day shift with 2 officers on site this is not an issue. Deliveries are cut off at 3:30pm and visitors after that time are also rare. After hours, the guardhouse contains a restroom that will not require a relief officer. Currently, the officers eat their meals in the guardhouse after hours. USNPRC has been manning the guard force as described in the SOW for approximately 4 years without issue for lack of relief personnel.

Question 11: “Scope and requirements does not make any mention of the Security Force being able to possess and use in the most extraordinary violent situations defensive “Tasers” as part of the Use of Force continuum as needed. Will the Contractor be allowed to possess and utilize law enforcement grade “Tasers” as needed for extraordinary violent encounters if they occur?”

Answer 11: While it is not a requirement, if the Contractor provides documentation of training and SOP for use of law enforcement grade “Tasers” in extraordinary violent encounters, that should be sufficient for allowing the carrying of the devices by trained Security Force members.

Question 12: “Scope and requirements do not mention if Security cameras are monitored, if so, by whom and who is responsible for retrieving Security camera video of any suspicious activity or incidents?”

Answer 12: Cameras are not continuously 24/7 monitored. The retrieval of video is not part of the requirements of this contract. The guard force is required to always have cameras and the access control system (read only) up on monitors within the guard house. Due to the sensitive nature of some of the buildings on the SEPRL campus, automated forced or held door alarms will alarm through the access control system, which then triggers a camera view on the forced door location. SEPRL SOPs specify different types of forced and held door alarms (Tier 1 and Tier 2) and who is to be contacted in each scenario by the guard force. The expectation is that the guard force follows these SOPs, requiring them to notify certain individuals on a call list for Tier 1 and Tier 2 alarms, as well as relay the information they observe on the access control system and the cameras to the contact on the call list. Guards will be trained and expected to follow these SOPs.

Question 13:

“1. REFERENCE: RFP Section 52.212-1 Addendum, under Offer Submission Documents #3 Technical (Personnel Certification) states, “...The offeror must provide a personnel list of the security force performing services and firearm training and digitized copy of GA license for each employee, completed within one year of the solicitation date...The listed armed security guard personnel must be registered with the security company.”

REFERENCE: In RFP Section 52.212-2 Evaluation, under Factor 1, it states, “The contractor provided a list of personnel that will be performing under the contract. Each employee has firearm training and certification completed within one year of the solicitation date....”

REFERENCE: Per Chapter 509-2-.03.(5) of the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia, “If a licensed or registered employee leaves a licensed company to become employed with another licensed company, the new employer must submit a new application and appropriate fee to the Board on behalf of the employee....”

a. QUESTION: Please clarify what is meant by “completed within one year of the solicitation date.” Does this mean that offeror’s have one year to get guards licensed?

b. QUESTION: Will the government allow a waiver or grace period for guards to work while they are waiting on their license application to be approved/processed by the state?

c. QUESTION: Providing a list of contractor personnel who have been trained and qualified on their firearm and listed on the offeror's security agency license is not feasible or cost effective at this time. Since the GA laws state that licensed companies need to submit an application and fee to get the guard licensed and listed on the company license, this means offerors must hire guards prior to having a contract for them to work and incur expenses before being awarded a contract. Would the government consider changing this submission requirement to providing resumes and/or letters of commitment for guards the offeror will hire once awarded the contract?"

Answer 13:

a. Please refer to GA Rules and Regulations, Chapter 295-2 EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL DATES. Company and employee license must not be expired.

b. No, a waiver or grace period is not allowable. The intent of the requirement is to mitigate performance delays.

c. No, the Government will not change the submission requirements. The intent of the requirement is to mitigate performance delays. The Government is seeking firms that currently have licensed individuals to meet the contract requirements.