Source Sought Notice / Request for Information

Conceptual Plans for Supercritical Carbon Dioxide (sCO₂) Brayton Cycle Energy Conversion Test Facility

I. Introduction

This is a Source Sought Notice/ Request for Information (RFI). The US Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Nuclear Energy (NE), is seeking information and sources for the following potential project: Conceptual plans for Supercritical Carbon Dioxide (sCO₂) Brayton Cycle Energy Conversion Test Facility. This notice is for businesses of all sizes. Both large and small businesses may submit responses; small businesses are particularly encouraged to respond.

The purposes of this Sources Sought Notice/RFI are to determine if any small businesses are available to perform the work contemplated by DOE and to obtain feedback on the attached draft Statement of Work (SOW) and DOE’s acquisition strategy/plan.

This Sources Sought Notice/RFI is for information and planning purposes only and is not to be construed as a commitment by the U.S. Government, nor will the U.S. Government pay for information solicited. The information from this notice will help the DOE plan their acquisition strategy or plan. Background information on the contemplated acquisition is presented in the attached SOW.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS; NO SOLICITATION EXISTS AT THIS TIME.

II. Sources Sought/Request for Information

Below are different sections, with specific questions under each. Interested parties may respond to any or all of the specific questions. When responding, please clearly indicate the questions you are responding to.

A. General Company Information

**QUESTION 1:** Please submit the following general company information:

a) Name and address of company and or companies (if there is a teaming arrangement or joint venture, please specify)

b) Point of Contact, Title, Phone, Email address

B. Small Business Availability and Company Capabilities

The DOE is conducting this market survey to determine the availability and technical capability of qualified businesses, including large businesses, small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses (SDB), 8(a) small businesses, woman-owned small businesses (WOSB), veteran owned small businesses (VOSB), service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB), and Historically Under-utilized Business Zone (HUBZone) small businesses capable of providing engineering and design services to develop conceptual plans for a 10 MWe sCO₂ test facility. The requisite knowledge and experience required to successfully complete the contemplated SOW includes engineering including applicable knowledge in the areas of engineering, specifically related to thermodynamic power cycles, component development, system control, procurement, and cost estimating with practical knowledge of sCO₂ cycles; Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC), project scheduling, design and permitting as it relates to the development of an operating test facility. Further information regarding the background and the work to be performed are included in the attached draft (SOW).
All responding firms are requested to identify their firm’s size and type of business to the anticipated North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) code. For this acquisition, the identified NAICS code is **541330 – Engineering Services**, with a Small Business size standard of $15 million. Teaming arrangements and joint ventures will be considered, including prime awards to small business concerns, provided the prime contract is awarded to an applicable small business that can comply with DOE requirements, and that the small business prime can comply with FAR 52.219-14, Limitations On Subcontracting (Nov 2011), i.e., that at least 50 percent of the cost of contract performance incurred for personnel shall be expended for employees of the small business concern.

**QUESTION 2:** Please identify your firm’s size and type of business, under NAICS 541330 – Engineering Services.

**QUESTION 3:** Please identify your firm’s qualifications to perform the work contemplated by the draft SOW (refer to the SOW Section E for qualifications, experience and technical expertise identified as being necessary to perform). As part of your response, please include a company capability statement overview and how this capability relates to performing the work contemplated by the SOW. Please include a brief overview of your technical and management expertise relevant to the requirements contemplated by this SOW. The capability statement shall be in sufficient enough detail, but not exceed eight (8) pages TOTAL (8 ½ x 11 pages, with 1 inch margins, using 12 point Times New Roman font), so that the Government can determine the experience and capability of your firm to provide the requirements. Please do not include promotional materials.

C. **Industry Feedback Regarding the Draft SOW**

A draft copy of the proposed Statement of Work is attached to this notice. No previous contract exists for this SOW. This particular action will result in information on approaches, design(s), costs, schedule, technical barriers, and risks associated with a 10 MWe sCO₂ Brayton Energy conversion test facility.

**QUESTION 4:** Please provide any specific comments regarding the SOW, including (In your answer, please reference specific SOW paragraphs or sections.):

a) Regarding the work to be done, whether it is correctly and adequately defined, whether the deliverables are appropriate, etc.

b) Adequacy of the contemplated period of performance.

c) Any specific comments or suggestions regarding how the SOW could be changed to make it more complete or improved.

D. **Proposed Acquisition Strategy**

DOE is developing its acquisition strategy for this procurement. Industry input is requested regarding this strategy. This strategy may include the following elements:

- Solicit competitive proposals as a small business set aside (assuming when there is a reasonable expectation that offers will be obtained from at least two responsible small business concerns offering the products of different small business concerns, and award can be made at fair market prices). This will be done using Federal Acquisition Regulation procedures from FAR Part 15.

- Award one or multiple Firm Fixed price contract(s) within an estimated price between $1.0 and $1.5 million.

- Period of performance to complete the contemplated SOW is approximately 9 months.

- Evaluate competitive proposals using the following Best Value Trade Off evaluation criteria:
o Technical and Management Qualifications;
o Project Approach and Understanding;
o Past performance; and
o Price

**QUESTION 5:** Please comment on the appropriateness of the proposed acquisition strategy and offer any suggestions regarding the strategy, including the contract type and the evaluation criteria.

**QUESTION 6:** Please comment on the ability to reasonably estimate the costs associated with the SOW as part of a request for proposal, including a description of the constraints or risks that could prevent a contractor from being able to provide a fixed price for the proposed work scope and how DOE could remove or minimize the constraints or risks.

### E. Other Comments

Interested parties are invited to provide other relevant feedback to DOE regarding this proposed acquisition.

**QUESTION 9:** If applicable, please provide any other comments, feedback or suggestions that were not otherwise specifically addressed in the other Sources Sought Notice/RFI questions.

### III. Industry Exchange of Information with DOE

DOE representatives may or may not choose to meet with potential offerors regarding this Sources Sought Notice/RFI. Additional information may be requested to further clarify/inform of potential industry capabilities.

### IV. Questions

Questions regarding this announcement shall be submitted in writing by email to the Contract Specialist, email address [merrilhj@id.doe.gov](mailto:merrilhj@id.doe.gov). Verbal, telephone questions or responses will not be accepted. DOE does not intend to publically post questions related to this Sources Sought Notice/RFI. However, DOE may, at its discretion, publically post questions and answers in response to this Sources Sought Notice/RFI; accordingly, questions shall not contain proprietary or classified information.

### V. RFI Submittal Requirements

In addition to the 8-page limit on the company capability statement specified above, please note the following Sources Sought Notice/RFI response submittal requirements.

1. Only written electronic copies of capability statements will be accepted. The email should contain the following subject line: *Response to Sources Sought Notice/RFI – “Conceptual plans for Supercritical Carbon Dioxide (sCO₂) Brayton Cycle Energy Conversion Test Facility”*.
2. Please submit all information to Heather Merrill at [merrilhj@id.doe.gov](mailto:merrilhj@id.doe.gov) by June 1, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time.

### VI. Contracting Office Address

1955 Fremont Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83415
Primary Point of Contact:
Heather Merrill, Contracting Officer
email: merrilhj@id.doe.gov

VII. Summary

THIS IS A SOURCES SOUGHT NOTICE/RFI to identify sources that can fulfill the Government’s requirements, as well as to obtain industry feedback regarding DOE’s proposed SOW and acquisition strategy. The information provided in the Sources Sought Notice/RFI is subject to change and is not binding on the Government. DOE has not made a commitment to procure any of the services/items discussed, and release of this Sources Sought Notice/RFI should not be construed as such a commitment or as authorization to incur cost for which reimbursement would be required or sought. All submissions become Government property and will not be returned.