

7 Evaluation and Selection Process

Acceptable solutions not selected for the immediate award will be retained by NSTXL & the Government for possible future execution and funding. The non-selected solutions will be considered as viable alternatives for up to 36 months. If a solution (that was not previously selected) is determined to be a suitable alternative, the company will be contacted to discuss any solution updates and details of a subsequent project award.

Respondents whose solutions are not selected at a down-select phase to include the final award shall not contact the Government or NSTXL to inquire about the status of any ongoing effort as it relates to the likelihood of their company being selected as a future alternative.

7.1 Selection Process

The Government will review each vendor's submittal against the criteria outlined in this section, with no specific order of importance to the technical merit, feasibility of implementation, and total project risk.

The proposed project price, delivery schedule, and data rights assertions will also be considered as aspects of the entire response when weighing risk and reward. Further, the Government will evaluate the degree to which the proposed concept provides an innovative, unique – yet realistic and sustainable - approach to meeting the Prototype technical capabilities and objectives.

Assessment of risk is subjective. If the risk is obvious or the schedule seems overly aggressive, the Government will consider that in the total risk assessment. Vendors are responsible for identifying risks within their submissions, as well as providing specific mitigation solutions. If sufficient validation of the proposed information is not provided, the Government may reject the submission.

Unsupported assertions will be discounted by the evaluators. Technology and Manufacturing Readiness Levels will be considered when weighing the benefit of the solution.

The Government anticipates awarding to the vendor or vendors that propose a solution that best satisfies the Government's objectives when considered in light of the comparison to the evaluation criteria.

The Government reserves the right to award to a vendor that does not meet all of the requirements but provides attributes or partial solutions of value. The

Government also reserves the right to make award to the most qualified vendor following any Phase without entering into the next Phase.

In making the final decision it may become necessary to compare the solutions of each vendor against the other, but the Government anticipates that its decision is more likely to be made based on each vendor's submittal as evaluated against the criteria described in the following Section 9.2 a determination of which solution(s) is/are determined to be the most advantageous to the Government.

7.2 Phase Evaluation and Selection

7.2.1 Demonstration Plan Evaluation

The Government will evaluate the technical merit and feasibility of the vendor's plan to demonstrate applications, infrastructure, and integration of those applications and infrastructure that meet or has potential to meet TSMT requirements. The demonstration plan will be given a risk assessment based on proposed intellectual property rights, data rights, and possible software licensing costs.

7.2.2 Demonstration Execution Evaluation

The Government will evaluate the technical merit and feasibility of the vendor's product demonstration in relation to TSMT technical and operational requirements as stated in the RFS. The technical areas will be evaluated based upon the demonstrated applications, infrastructure, and integration of those applications and infrastructure. The operational areas will be evaluated based on point of need, ease of use, and reliability. The Government will evaluate the degree to which the vendor's solution is innovative and provides leap ahead technology.

7.2.3 White Paper Evaluation

The Government will evaluate the technical merit and feasibility of the white paper to meet TSMT requirements as stated in the RFS. The Government will provide clarification and open discussion during the TIMs as well as 1-on-1 technical overview to ensure the vendors understand and provide the optimal solution to meet the requirement.

7.2.4 Final Solution Evaluation: Comprehensive Evaluation encompassing Vendor Demonstrations, White Papers and Clarifying Discussions

The Government will evaluate the cost, technical approach, and schedule of the vendor's final solution. The Government will evaluate the

reasonableness of the vendor's cost and price. The Government will evaluate the technical merit and feasibility of the vendor's technical approach. The Government will evaluate the merit and feasibility of the schedule, and the correlation of the schedule with technical approach and program costs.