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National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO)

Request for Information (RFI)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR INDEFINITE DELIVERY INDEFINITE QUANTITY (IDIQ), TASK ORDER CONTRACT (TOC) FOR ngVLA SITE INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Section 1: Introduction

This is a Request for Information announcement. The information received will be used by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), managed by Associated Universities, Inc., to facilitate the decision-making process and will not be disclosed outside of the organization and its federal agency funding sources. The intent of this Request for Information is to identify potential qualified businesses.

This Request for Information is one facet in the NRAO's overall market research in regard to the proposed solicitation being full and open (unrestricted). No procurement strategy will be determined based solely on the information received in response to this Request for Information.

No reimbursement will be made for any costs associated with providing information in response to this announcement or any follow-up information requests. This notice does not constitute a Request for Proposal and is not to be construed as a commitment by NRAO for any purpose other than market research. Respondents will not be notified of the results of this market research.

Section 2: Overview

NRAO is seeking Business sources with current and relevant experience, personnel, and capability to perform new infrastructure construction projects for the Next Generation Very Large Array (ngVLA) program at various locations as approved. These are potential requirements to consider:

- **The new infrastructure is related to radio astronomy 18-meter dish antenna foundations along with related site infrastructure.**

- **Site infrastructure will include all construction necessary to develop approximately 1 acre of raw land at each site suitable for antenna installation including access, power, telecom, security and ancillary buildings.**
- **The locations are expected to be widely distributed locations within United States CONUS/OCONUS/Territories in remote rural areas to avoid Radio Frequency interference.**
- **Locations may be on Federal, State or private land. Land acquisition is outside the scope of this contract other than planning in support of land acquisition and approvals.**
- **The task orders will encompass site planning, engineering services, approval support and construction through site completion.**
- **Antenna structure, and antenna installation services, are not within the scope for this work, other than coordination roles with the antenna provider. A reference Antenna Foundation design will be validated or modified for local soils, as needed.**
- **The work will be done by contractors working in sectors related to NAICS codes 237990, 237130 and 236210 for infrastructure construction projects and 541330 for engineering services.**

A draft SOW for the IDIQ contract is included for your review and comment.

Estimated Contract Award and Task Order 1 Award is January 2027. Scope of Task Order 1 will be provided with the corresponding Request for Proposal (RFP).

The proposed contract for the initial range of antenna sites will be for a base performance period of one (1) year and four (4) option periods of one (1) year each, resulting in the contract performance period maximum of five (5) years. The total scope of work is anticipated to exceed \$25,000,000 over five years. Task order range is estimated between \$3,000 and \$11,000,000.

Section 3: Requested Information

Interested parties are requested to submit a capability statement and response to this RFI addressing the items below. Responses should be submitted in PDF format, not to exceed 20 pages (excluding resumes and past performance summaries).

1) Contractor Information: Provide your firm's contact information, including Unique Entity ID (generated by SAM.gov) and CAGE Code.

2) Type of Business.

3) Bonding Capacity: Provide your surety's name, your maximum bonding capacity per project, and your aggregate maximum bonding capacity.

4) Locations:

- Describe experience with remote or geographically dispersed construction programs involving multiple simultaneous sites, experience with single vs. multiple awards, regional pools or lots
- Describe experience with OCONUS construction and any specific international locations (Hawaii, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada).

5) Experience: Submit a minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) recent specific government or commercial contracts/projects your firm has performed as the prime contractor to demonstrate your experience with infrastructure design and/or construction for radio telescopes, antenna arrays, communications towers, or similar precision-foundation structures. A specific project is a single project or a single task order under an indefinite quantity contract. "Recent" is defined as having been 100% completed within the five years prior to the submission due date. Projects which do not meet these requirements may not be considered relevant.

For each of the projects submitted for experience evaluation, provide the following:

- title and location
- award and completion dates
- contract or subcontract value
- type of work for overall project and type of work your company self-performed
- current customer information including point of contact, phone number, and email address
- whether the work was performed as a prime or subcontractor

6) Identify any teaming arrangements or key subcontractors you anticipate using for this work.

7) Describe experience with design-build vs. other delivery approaches, firm fixed price vs. cost plus award fee types, and effective pricing and payment structures.

8) Comments on Draft SOW and Recommended Improvements

- Identify any gaps, ambiguities, or inconsistencies in the draft Scope of Work.
- Provide recommended improvements to the scope, deliverables, or technical requirements.

- Comment on the proposed contract type(s) and any concerns regarding performance risk.
- Identify any standards, codes, or regulatory requirements you believe should be added to Section 7 of SOW.

9) Questions

- Submit written questions regarding this RFI to the Point of Contact identified below. Questions will be compiled and answered on the NRAO Business Opportunities page.

Section 4: Submission Guidelines

Responses to this Request for Information (RFI) announcement are due no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on November 30, 2026. Please address your response to NRAO via email **ONLY** to **rsakshau@nrao.edu**. Facsimile submittals will not be accepted.

Questions: Submit written questions regarding this RFI to the Point of Contact identified above by 5:00 p.m. ET on November 16, 2026. Answers to questions, and if necessary, any supporting documentation will be posted to the NRAO Business Opportunities page at <https://info.nrao.edu/oas/cap/oas/cap/open-rfps>. NRAO cannot guarantee that questions received after November 16, 2026 will be answered.

Response Format: Interested vendors are requested to respond to this RFI at an unclassified level via a white paper. Submissions should not exceed twenty (20) pages, single spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman with at least one-inch margins on 8 1/2" X 11" page size. The title page and front matter such as transmittal letter, cover page, table of contents, and appendices such as technical specifications of drawings, will not count against the page limit. The response should not exceed a 5 MB e-mail limit for all items associated with the RFI response. Responses must specifically describe the contractor's capability to meet the requirements outlined in this RFI.

Section 5: Additional Information

The NRAO Business Opportunities page will be the repository for all information related to this RFI.

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes (market research) to inform future NRAO astronomical observatory requirements and architectural trades. As part of a comprehensive market research and technical review process, please be advised that all submissions may be shared with other Government agencies and partners, including but not limited to the National Science Foundation (NSF). This RFI does not constitute a solicitation (Request for Proposal or Request for Quotations), or a promise to issue a solicitation in the

future. This RFI does not commit NRAO to contract for any supply or service whatsoever. Responses to this RFI, due November 30, 2026, are not offers and cannot be accepted by NRAO to form a binding contract. Furthermore and, at this time, NRAO is not seeking proposals and will not accept any unsolicited proposals. Respondents are advised that NRAO will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in response to this RFI. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the responding party's expense. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any future solicitations, if any are issued. Any information submitted by respondents to this RFI is strictly voluntary. All submissions become AUI/NRAO property and will not be returned. **Proprietary information**, if any, should be kept to a minimum and **MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED**. All information in response to this RFI marked proprietary will be handled accordingly. NRAO shall not be liable for or suffer any consequential damages for any proprietary information not properly identified. Proprietary information will be safeguarded in accordance with applicable regulations.

Contact Information

Contracting Point of Contact:

Richard Sakshaug, Contracts and Procurement Manager

Email:

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Contracting Office Address:

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