Updated: 29 October 2019

GNAOI - RfP Questions and Answers

Note: Questions and answers are listed in the order received. For the newest questions and answers, please scroll to the bottom of the document.

Q1: Please clarify what components will be provided by the customer in regard to the H4RG detector? For example, will the SideCar ASIC, detector handling fixture, internal flex cable, external cabling, and external controller be included.

A1: Gemini intends to supply the H4RG detector, the SIDECAR ASIC, the cable between the detector and the SIDECAR ASIC, and the handling tool.

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Q2: What is your preferred operating temperature for the H4RG?

A2: Each team should determine the optimal set of instrument (including detector operational) parameters that will enable the instrument to best fill its scientific mission. Gemini is not going to mandate a specific detector operating temperature.

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Q3: After reviewing the papers on GSAOI and studying the cartoons of their optical layout, a question about the OIWFS has been raised. The proposal docs imply that the H4RG would be used as the detector for the OIWFS. Consequently, there was no intent to image and use the OIWFS at the same time. Instead, an optics wheel in the main beam path would house the pupil imaging lens(es) and the +defocus and -defocus lens(es). Could you please clarify?

A3: The intended use for the Gemini-provided HAWAII-4RG detector is as the science imaging detector. These detectors have the ability to readout a small window at a fast rate that teams may decide to utilize as some form of OIWFS.

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Q4: Should contract exceptions be added to the proposal or provided separately?
***Instructions to Offerors**, Section I, Article 5.2, Page 7*

A4: Any contract exceptions should be submitted with the proposal.

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Q5: If contract exceptions are part of proposal, do these fall within the 40 page limit?
***Instructions to Offerors**, Section I, Article 5.2, Page 7*

A5: Contract exceptions do not count towards the 40 page proposal limit.

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Q6: The template for how to respond give a 40 page limit, but appendices have no page limit. Can we add additional appendices beyond Appendices A-F listed?
***Instructions to Offerors**, Section III, Article 1.0, Page 13-14*

A6: Yes, but any appendices beyond A-F must be included in the 40 page limit.

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Q7: For the Preliminary Design proposal, AURA has identified that it will only accept proposals from a single contractor. Will AURA accept proposals for Post-Preliminary Design Contract which do not have a single contractor but involve multiple parties?
***Instructions to Offerors**, Section III, Article 2.0, Page 15*

A7: For the Post-Preliminary Design, AURA intends to enter into a contract with a single contractor. If multiple parties are involved, there needs to be a lead party which is contracted with AURA.

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Q8: Will AURA consider a proposal with the fixed price in foreign currency?
***GNAOI Contract Main**, Article 6, Page 7*

A8: The draft contract will state the fixed price should be in USD and any team may note an exception to those terms in its submission.

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Q9: Does AURA intend to obtain a license in arising and background IP that would permit AURA to use such IP in observatories other than GEMINI
***GNAOI Contract Main**, Article 12, Page 9-10*

A9: See Articles 12.5 and 12.6. These Licenses will be addressed separately with the winning contractor, if applicable.

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Q10: For proposers like government entities and universities who have policies limiting their ability to provide intellectual property warranties and indemnities, does AURA have flexibility to adjust the warranties and indemnities proposed in the contract so they are consistent with research contract terms? Eg. Government entities and universities do not in the ordinary course provide warranties of a specific outcome and disclaim implied warranties.
***NAOI Contract Main**, Article 18, Page 11-12*

A10: The terms are negotiable.

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Q11: For foreign bidders, is the requirement that an Assurance of Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 be filed a requirement for a non-US proposer? If yes, can AURA provide a copy of this form?
***GNAOI Contract Main**, Article 44, Page 22*

A11: No. It would not be applicable to a non-US bidder.

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Q12: Could you please clarify if the Representations and Certifications section is intended to be part of the 40-page RFP or an appendix?

A12: You may send them as a separate attachment, the Representations and Certifications will not be part of the 40 page RFP or to the appendix.

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Q13: Would Gemini accept a Preliminary Design Study for GNAOI from a team that does not require budget support?

A13: Yes, you can certainly propose that you do not require budgetary support for the Preliminary Design Stage.

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Q14: If the answer to Q13 is yes, is it necessary to submit a full proposal by Nov.1, or would a simple letter of intent to produce a no-cost Preliminary Design Study suffice?

A14: You will still have to submit a full proposal in accordance with the terms and conditions of GNAOI-02, Sections III and IV that will be subject to the same evaluation process as other (non $0 bid) proposals.” A letter of intent alone is not an acceptable replacement for a proposal.