Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

You are invited to submit a proposal in accordance with the requirements of Solicitation 10-233-SOL-00078. This requirement is for The Department of Health and Human Services/Program Support Center for the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC).

The Government is limiting consideration to National Institutes of Health (NIH) Information Technology Acquisition and Assessment Center (NITACC) CIO-SP2i Task Order holders only.

Please read the attached Solicitation carefully and prepare your proposal in accordance with the solicitation requirements. The solicitation contains the following:

- SF1449
- Attachment A: Description and Specifications
- Attachment B: Statement of Work/Task Order Deliverables/Performance Standards and Measures
- Attachment C: Instructions to Offerors & Evaluation Criteria
- Attachment D: Non-Disclosure Agreement & Contract Administration
- Attachment E: Subcontracting Plan

Prospective Offerors are requested to submit all questions and proposals through the NITAAC website. To confirm that all electronic submissions are successfully captured by the NITAAC website, please e-mail Charles R. Hicks at Charles.Hicks@psc.hhs.gov stating that ‘company has submitted questions/proposals through the NITAAC website.’ Offerors must reference the solicitation number 10-233-SOL-00078 on all correspondences.

All questions must be submitted by **12:00 PM EST on March 1, 2010**. The questions and answers will be posted on the NITAAC website.

An electronic copy of your complete proposal must be received through the NITAAC website no later than **12:00 PM EST on March 8, 2010**. All proposals shall be marked with the solicitation number 10-233-SOL-00078.

It is the Offeror’s responsibility to submit all proposals by the scheduled closing date and time and in accordance with the attached “Instructions to Offerors”.

This RFP does not commit the Government to pay any costs for the preparation and submission of your proposal. It is also brought to your attention that the Contracting Officer is the only individual who can legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds in connection with the proposed requirement.

There are similar ONC solicitations that will be issued via the NITAAC vehicle. The Government is encouraging Offerors to consider responding to those solicitations as well as this one.
If any additional information is required, please contact Charles R. Hicks via email at Charles.Hicks@psc.hhs.gov or at 301.443.0706.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Charles R. Hicks
Contracting Specialist

For any questions regarding this contract please feel free to contact Charles Hicks at 301.443.0706 or charles.hicks@psc.hhs.gov.

ARRA REQUIREMENT - This solicitation is issued subject to the availability of funds (FAR 52.232-18, Availability of Funds (APR 1984)).

(Use Reverse and/or Attach Additional Sheets as Necessary)
RFP TECHNICAL INQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS

All questions regarding the solicitation, of a contractual nature or technical nature, must be submitted in writing to Charles R. Hicks, Contract Specialist, via email at Charles.Hicks@psc.hhs.gov by 12:00 PM Eastern Time March 1, 2010. Program Support Center will not consider any questions received after that date.

QUOTE SUBMISSION

Offerors who are interested in this solicitation must provide the contract specialist with a proposal NO LATER THAN 12:00 PM EASTERN TIME MARCH 8, 2010 VIA electronic copy to NITAAC website. Late submissions, modifications, and withdrawals of bids will be process in accordance with FAR 52.214-7.

Period of Performance: 04/01/2010 to 03/31/2012

1 Standards and Interoperability Tools and Repository Project

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

A.1. Project Title
Standards and Interoperability Framework Interoperability Tools and Standards Repository

A.2. Period of Performance
The period of performance is a based period of 24 months from date of award, unless the period is extended by modification to this task order. Award is anticipated by March 31, 2010.

A.3. Consideration and Payment
The Contractor shall provide the services described in Section C, Description/Specifications/Work Statement. Except as otherwise specified in the contract, the Contractor shall furnish the necessary personnel, materials, services, facilities, and otherwise do all things necessary for or incident to the performance of the work set forth herein.

In consideration of satisfactory performance of the work described in the Statement of Work, the Contractor shall be compensated for the number of hours actually incurred at the fixed loaded hourly rates set forth below. Other direct costs, if applicable, shall be paid at actual cost. The Government shall not be obligated to pay any amount in excess of the ceiling price, nor is the Contractor obligated to continue performance if to do so would exceed the ceiling price.

A.4. Contract Type/Pricing
The Government contemplates award of a time and materials labor hour contract resulting from this solicitation. Only one (1) award will be made as a result of this notice. The Government may or may not choose to hold discussion. This is a time and materials contract. In consideration for the successful performance of this work, the Contractor shall be compensated in accordance with the fixed loaded hourly rates shown below for actual hours incurred. The fully loaded rates shall be all inclusive of the direct labor rate, fringe benefits, applicable indirect cost rates, and any profit (if applicable) for each labor category. The Contractor shall also be reimbursed for domestic travel expenses incurred in direct performance of this contract. The estimated hours are based on a 24-month period of performance.
### Labor Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labor Category</th>
<th>Estimated Hours</th>
<th>Fixed Loaded Hourly Rate</th>
<th>Ceiling Price</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Project Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Writer/Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Functional Analyst</td>
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<td><strong>Total Estimated Labor</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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### A.5. Ceiling Price

The ceiling price for this contract is $\_\_\_\_\_. The Government shall not be obligated to pay any amount in excess of this ceiling price nor is the Contractor obligated to continue performance if to do so would exceed this ceiling price.

### A.6. Place of Performance

At the Contractor’s site

### A.7. Purpose of Contract

The purpose of this project is to develop and maintain Interoperability Tools and Standards repository to support the entire standards and interoperability life cycle and facilitate wider use of standards and increased level of interoperability across the nation in health IT. The wider adoption and effective use of Health Information Technology (health IT) requires adherence to standards, implementation of standards per common interoperability specifications and use of health IT in a meaningful way.

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act of 2009 states that the National Coordinator shall perform duties in a manner consistent with the development of a nationwide health information technology infrastructure that allows for the electronic use and exchange of information and that:

- **a.** Ensures that each patient’s health information is secure and protected, in accordance with applicable law;
- **b.** Improves health care quality, reduces medical errors, reduces health disparities, and advances the delivery of patient-centered medical care;
- **c.** Reduces health care costs, resulting from inefficiency, medical errors, inappropriate care, duplicative care and incomplete information;
- **d.** Provides appropriate information to help guide medical decisions at the time and place of care;
e. Ensures the inclusion of meaningful public input in such development of such infrastructure; 

f. Improves the coordination of care and information among hospitals, laboratories, physician offices, and other entities through an effective infrastructure for the secure and authorized exchange of health care information; 

g. Improves public health activities and facilitates the early identification and rapid response to public health threats and emergencies, including bio-terror events and infectious disease outbreaks; 

h. Facilitates health and clinical research and health care quality; 

i. Promotes early detection, prevention and management of chronic diseases; 

j. Promotes a more effective marketplace, greater competition, greater systems analysis, increased consumer choice, and improved outcomes in healthcare services; and 

k. Improves efforts to reduce health disparities.

HITECH Act also includes consideration for other areas including “the appropriate uses of a nationwide health information infrastructure including for the purposes of:

a. The collection of quality data and public reporting; 

b. Bio-surveillance and public health; 

c. Medical and clinical research; and 

d. Drug safety.

Effective information exchange is a key foundation to meet these goals and objectives; and appropriate standards and common adoption of those standards is important for interoperability. This program will leverage previous efforts in the areas of standards and interoperability specification and enhance these efforts by harmonizing these efforts to help the healthcare market at large.

The Office of the National Coordinator anticipates making an award in March 2010. It would be important to evaluate the effectiveness of this project by studying the outcome of progress of this project.

The contractor selected for this program will be required to cooperate with an ONC funded contractor who will be performing a global evaluation to assess the combined impact of the HITECH programs.

A.8. Background

On February 17, 2009, the President signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This statute includes The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (the HITECH Act) that sets forth a plan for advancing the appropriate use of health information technology to improve quality of care and establish a foundation for health care reform.

The HITECH Act authorizes the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to administer incentives to eligible professionals (EPs) and hospitals for meaningful use of certified electronic health records (EHRs). These incentives are anticipated to drive
adoption of EHRs needed to reach the goal of all Americans having secure EHRs by 2014. To achieve the vision of a transformed health system that health information technology (health IT) can facilitate, there are four critical prerequisites:

- Clinicians and hospitals must acquire and implement certified EHRs in a way that fully integrates these tools into the care delivery process;
- Appropriate technical, legal, and financial supports are needed to enable information to flow securely to wherever it is needed to support health care and population health;
- Standards and interoperability is achievable by the providers, consumers and industry; and
- Federal government promotes use of interoperability infrastructure by providers and consumers.

Nationwide Health Information network (NHIN) is an interoperability infrastructure that has been piloted and is in its demonstration phase at ONC. NHIN is the enabler to accelerate the HITECH priorities for improved quality care, expedite care coordination, and reduce costs and wider adoption of electronic health record.

HITECH also authorizes the establishment of several new grant programs, contracts and studies that will address the prerequisites described above and promote wider adoption of health IT.

The priority grant programs and contracts are fundamental to realizing the promise of meaningful use of health IT that leads to improved quality, efficiency and safety of health care. Under the HITECH Act, an eligible professional or hospital is considered a "meaningful EHR user" if they use certified EHR technology (i.e., EHRs certified against the functional criteria) and standards adopted by the Secretary, including but not limited to e-prescribing and the electronic exchange of information for the purposes of quality improvement, such as care coordination. In addition, eligible professionals and hospitals must submit clinical quality and other measures to HHS.

Meaningful use incentives will be available to health care providers beginning in FY 2011 based on their Medicare and Medicaid coverage status and other statutorily defined factors. This includes eligible health care professionals and acute care hospitals and takes into consideration adjustment factors for children’s hospitals and critical access hospitals. The detailed criteria to qualify for meaningful use incentive payments will be established by the Secretary of HHS through the formal notice-and-comment rulemaking process. The details about the NPRM and IFR can be found at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html.

The HITECH Act also requires these meaningful use criteria to become more stringent over time. In 2015, providers are expected to have adopted and be actively utilizing an EHR in compliance with "meaningful use" or they will be subject to financial penalties under Medicare. The information exchange requirements for the meaningful use EHR incentives, as specified in the regulation currently under development, will inform a strategic framework for this program. Any goals, objectives, and corresponding measures of meaningful use that require HIE over time will be the reference point for the developers and users.
A key component of “meaningful use” is certified electronic health records and key certification criteria are that the electronic health record is interoperable and adheres to standards adopted by the Secretary. ONC has developed an interoperability and standards framework that has several key steps and NHIN is a critical component of the framework. The overview of the framework is provided below.

**Overview of Standards and Interoperability Framework**

Widespread adoption and meaningful use of health IT is one of the foundational steps in improving the quality and efficiency of health care. The appropriate and secure exchange of information is a critical enabler of a high performance health care system. The overall purpose of the ONC programs is to facilitate and expand the secure, electronic movement and use of health information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.

The standards and interoperability framework described below will support all ONC programs and effort in increasing adoption of health IT across the entire health care enterprise.

**Interoperability/Standards processes**

This framework is a life cycle for the development of standards and interoperability specifications and is meant to establish a sustainable set of tools and processes that will streamline and coordinate the development of standards and interoperable software solutions to support the goals of the HITECH Act. The standards and interoperability framework will support all ONC programs and effort in increasing adoption of health IT across the entire health care enterprise.

This framework can be effective only when each task is well coordinated with other tasks in the process i.e., the output from a task can be a critical input to another task. Some activities may focus only on a single task within the framework; whereas certain activities such as community engagement and architectural support may span multiple tasks. Therefore it is important that all contractors working on various tasks within this
framework collaborate with others.

The Interim Final Rule (IFR) for EHR standards and certification describes additional requirements for software that will be used to support interoperability and meaningful use. Standards and functional requirements included in the IFR will need to be addressed in the deployment of the entire framework and creating tools and repository of tools for wider use will make the over all process efficient. The details about the IFR can be found at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html.

ONC would like to leverage many of the existing tools and resources from the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) and develop a NIEM-like process for health care domain. NIEM is designed to develop, disseminate, and support enterprise wide information exchange processes and standards that can enable jurisdictions to effectively share critical information in both emergency and routine situations. NIEM provides standard definitions in a structured data model, as well as tools, governance and methodology to execute information-sharing in repeatable way that is stable over time. The baseline for comparison of NIEM implementation is meeting the same information-sharing requirements without the use of such a set of standards.

Today, NIEM domain does not include healthcare. So, ONC would like to establish a NIEM like process for health care and develop and support healthcare specific tools to meet the unique needs of the ONC communities and the privacy and security concerns of health care consumers. NIEM provides a consistent approach that will help develop consistent description of use cases and help the healthcare stakeholders. Also, leveraging the tools and resources available in the NIEM process will help each new case to build on previous use cases and relevant standards as well as help build the repository for all stakeholders.

Description of the program/project

Interoperability Tools and Standards Repository – The uptake of technically optimal standards may be hindered by the complexity of implementing them. To accelerate the development, use, maintenance and adoption of interoperability standards across the industry, and to spur innovation, ONC will develop tools to facilitate the entire standards lifecycle and maximize re-use of concepts and components, from standardized use case development, to harmonization, and access for software developer to standards, including tools and a repository for browsing, selecting, and implementing appropriate standards.

The framework described above shows that the standards tools and repository will need to support multiple activities across the entire standards and interoperability process. Investments in tools and standards development infrastructure will make the process of finding, selecting, implementing, and using standards easier for the developers, and will support the standards development life cycle, by maintaining, updating, and reusing standards in the repository. This will make the entire process more efficient and ubiquitous.

It is anticipated that additional tools will be needed to support the NIEM like activities for healthcare domain. For example, through this process ONC would like to develop not only data interchange specifications, but also develop software specifications to support
the exchange of data within NHIN. The software functionality does not currently exist in
the NIEM toolset, and therefore, it will be necessary to extend NIEM tools to include
needed resources. Investments in developing the tools to support this process will help
streamline the standards development processes, and aid in the maintenance and use
of the data and application standards developed in these activities.

A.9. Standards & Regulations:

a. All activities, work products and tasks outlined in this SOW shall comply fully with
Federal and HHS regulations, standards, and guidance with regard to IT security,
usability, accessibility under Section 508, the HHS domain name policy, OMB data
collection and “cookie” policies, and other Web policies. Section 508 requires that
all Web site content be equally accessible to people with disabilities. This applies to
Web applications, Web pages and all attachment files. The Contractor shall conduct
Section 508 compliance check on all materials developed that are intended for
electronic distribution. PDF files shall be verified with the latest version of Adobe
Acrobat Professional or other software as directed by the ASPA Web
Communication Division. Guidance on Section 508 is available at
www.hhs.gov/web/508

b. All messages and materials developed under this contract must meet clear
communication standards and be assessed by audiences as appropriate for their
needs. These standards include using plain language guidelines
(www.plainlanguage.gov/howto/guidelines/bigdoc/TOC.cfm), conducting user testing
and following usability guidelines (www.usability.gov), and making messages and
materials available in multiple formats and languages and consistent with cultural
beliefs and values. All campaign products must be accessible to persons with
disabilities and limited English proficiency. Materials shall be offered in multiple
languages and alternative formats such as Braille, large print, and electronic
versions. Multimedia productions shall be captioned and the video described.

A.10. Government Furnished Information

The relevant information about the IFR can be found on the website
http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.htm. The relevant information about NIEM can be
found on the website http://www.niem.gov/. The relevant information about IEPD can
be found on the website

A.11. Government Furnished Property

None. All contractor personnel will be required to work offsite at the contractor’s
designated facility.

A.12. Travel

The contractor shall be required to travel approximately 16 time to the below address
two (2) times per/quarter for the life of the contract.

Department of Health and Human Services
Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
330 C Street, SW
A.13. Rights in Data

All data produced under this task order is the property of the Government. The Contractor including subcontractor(s) agrees not to disclose, verbally or in writing, information pertaining to the results or findings of work (including data base files, analyses, draft or final papers and reports) for the period of an individual delivery order under this contract without obtaining prior written approval of the task order officers. The Contractor must request approval in advance (minimum 21 days prior to release) and in writing, specifying: who or what is generating the request for advance information; when and how project results/information would be released; and what information would be released. Failure to receive response to the task order officers does not constitute approval for releasing information.


The specifications listed below are required in all ONC contracts where the product is expected to be a report or other document. They are intended to facilitate the retention of electronic copies of these reports for future use and to provide for translation or conversion of these electronic copies into the hypertext markup language (html) and other formats used on the Internet.

In addition to the printed copies required under the contract, a digital copy of the report shall be delivered on media readable by Windows programs. The text, tables, and any charts or other graphics shall be organized and formatted as described in the following paragraphs.

- Text may be formatted in any of the commonly available word processing programs marketed by the IBM®, Corel®, or Microsoft® corporations. Where compatibility with earlier versions of the software is in doubt, files shall be delivered in the penultimate version of the software.

- Provide a single file that contains the whole document ready for printing. It should reproduce the printed report exactly.

- In addition, lengthy documents (greater than roughly 500 Kb) should be divided into several parts and a separate file should be provided for each part. Lengthy files (greater than 200 Kb) should be avoided if possible. File names should contain consecutive numbers that correspond to the numerical labels used in the printed version. For example, Chapter 2 can be saved as ch2.doc, Chapter 4-Figure 2 as c4f2.gif. File extensions shall be those used by the software manufacturer or follow the usual industry conventions, e.g., doc, wpd, xls, gif, jpg, etc.

- Tables and tabular material shall NOT be converted into graphical images, but be included with the word processing files or delivered as spreadsheet files (Excel® or Quattro Pro®).

- Graphic figures such as bar and line charts, diagrams, and other drawings shall be delivered in the GIF (Graphics Interchange Format) or the JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) format. Graphical elements may be merged with
the text to form a single file for printing purposes or they may be delivered as separate files.

- Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF®) may NOT be substituted for the above word processing formats. An unlocked, PDF version may be provided in addition to the word processing version, but it is not required.

- Provide presentations, such as PowerPoint®, as separate files.

Datasets must have complete documentation.

A.15. Changes to Security Requirements

Mutual written agreement shall be reached on changes or corrections to the IT Security Plan or any training requirements resulting from the issuance of new or amended Federal policies and procedures governing IT security requirements, with final determination or appropriateness being made by the Government. The Government’s liability is limited to an equitable adjustment of cost, if any, of such changes or corrections.

A.16. Submittal of IT Security Plan

Within 45 days after contract award, the Contractor shall submit the IT Security Plan to the CO and PO for acceptance. The CO and PO will consult and seek the recommendations of the designated Technical Security Advisor on the acceptability of the plan. This plan shall be consistent with and further detail the approach contained in the Contractor's offer/bid that resulted in the award of this contract and in compliance with the requirements stated in this clause. Additionally, for any information stored by the Contractor (electronic or otherwise), the Contractor shall provide (1) for electronically stored information, a copy of the FIPS 140-2 Validation Certificate and a signed letter stating their application, product, or module is a FIPS 140-2 validated product, and (2) for hardcopy information, address in the plan how this information will be labeled, handled, and disposed of to ensure the security of sensitive information while in the custody of the Contractor. Contractors shall be required to maintain the use of FIPS 140-2 validated encryption solution, as appropriate, for the life of the contract. The accepted plan shall be incorporated into the contract as a compliance document. The Contractor shall comply with the accepted plan.

A.17. Accreditation

Within 6 months after contract award, the Contractor shall submit written proof of IT Security accreditation for acceptance by the CO and PO. The CO and PO will consult and seek the recommendations of the designated Technical Security Advisor on the acceptability of the IT Security accreditation. Such written proof may be furnished either by the Contractor or by a third party. Accreditation must be in accordance with NIST Special Publication 800-37, Guide for the Security Certification and Accreditation of Federal Information Technology Systems. This accreditation will include a final security plan, risk assessment, security controls and assessments, and disaster recovery plan/continuity of operations plan. This accreditation, when accepted by the CO, shall be incorporated into the contract as a compliance document, and shall include a final security plan, a risk assessment, security test controls and assessments, and disaster
recovery/continuity of operations plan. The Contractor shall comply with the accepted accreditation documentation. Any deficiencies noted during this accreditation must be provided to the PO for entry into this requirement Initiative’s Plan of Action and Milestone (POA&M) management process. The Contractor shall use this requirement Initiative’s POA&M process to document planned remedial actions to address any deficiencies in information security policies, procedures, and practices, and the completion of those activities. Security deficiencies must be corrected within the timeframes approved by the PO (after consultation with the designated Technical Security Advisor).
A.18. Annual Verification

On an annual basis, the Contractor shall submit verification to the CO that the IT Security Plan and IT accreditation remains valid. Additionally, this requirement Initiative has the right to perform, at its discretion, an annual on-site audit of Contractor’s security controls to ensure compliance with FISMA and all items listed in the contract.

A.19. Warning Notices

The Contractor shall ensure that banners are displayed on all systems (both public and private) operated by the Contractor prior to allowing anyone access to the system:

Government Warning

• WARNING • WARNING • WARNING •

Unauthorized access is a violation of U.S. Law, and may result in criminal or administrative penalties. Users shall not access other user’s or system files without proper authority. Absence of access controls IS NOT authorization for access the information systems and related equipment are intended for communication, transmission, processing and storage of U.S. Government information. These systems and equipment are subject to monitoring by law enforcement and authorized federal officials. Monitoring may result in the acquisition, recording, and analysis of all data being communicated, transmitted, processed or stored in this system by law enforcement and authorized federal officials. Use of this system constitutes consent to such monitoring.
STATEMENT OF WORK

B.1. Scope

To develop and maintain Interoperability Tools and Standards repository to support the entire standards and interoperability life cycle and facilitate wider use of standards and increased level of interoperability across the nation in health IT. Facilitate the wider adoption and effective use of health IT by promoting adherence to standards, implementation of standards per common interoperability specifications and use of health IT in a meaningful way.

The purpose of this project is to develop and execute a plan to build tools and repository to support entire standards and interoperability framework. The contractor will need to leverage existing resources and tools within NIEM and other relevant frameworks appropriate for healthcare and create a robust infrastructure for standards and interoperability framework.

The Contractor must exercise and enforce all applicable Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulations and directives, and will need to coordinate with public and private organizations, stakeholder groups and industry in accomplishing these tasks.

The Contractor shall maintain a level of technical expertise necessary to satisfy the requirements of executed task assignments.

B.2. Summary of Tasks

Through this contract, the contracting entity shall complete the following tasks. These tasks include, but are not limited to:

1. Contract-Level and Task Order (TO) Management
2. Develop Strategy and Plan for Development of Tools and the support of a Standards Repository
3. Develop Toolsets to Support Framework Key Steps
4. Develop a Process for Publishing Standards, Dissemination of Toolset and Repository

Outcomes/Objectives to be accomplished for the Specification of Tasks below include, but are not limited to:

B.2.1. Task 1 – Contract-Level and Task Order (TO) Management

The contractor shall provide expert contract and task order management services.

B.2.1.1. Post Award Meeting

- Meet with the Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR) and other ONC staff, in a face to face meeting, to discuss the objectives of the contract and any related project issues. A written agenda for the meeting shall be prepared by the contractor and sent to the COTR three (3) days prior to the meeting.

B.2.1.2. Contract-Level Program Management
• Provide the technical and functional activities at the contract level needed for program management of this SOW including productivity and management methods such as quality assurance, configuration, work breakdown structure and resource management.

• Coordinate organizational requirements, manage projects and schedules, and report progress/issues to COTR.

• Provide the centralized administrative, clerical, documentation and other related functions.

B.2.1.3. Project Work Plan

• The contractor shall submit a draft analytical work plan of not more than ten (10) single-spaced pages for the review and approval of the COTR. The work plan shall reflect preliminary discussions and decisions reached during the post-award meeting. The work plan shall include at a minimum, a plan to carry out each of the tasks below, a communication plan to include outreach and updates to all key stakeholders, and a chart with the timeframe for draft and final deliverables with specific dates identified.

The contractor shall modify the draft work plan in accordance with comments provided by the COTR. The revised work plan after receiving comments from the COTR and shall be considered final upon approval by the COTR.

B.2.1.4. Task Order Management Plan

• Prepare a Task Order Management Plan describing the technical approach, organizational resources and management controls to be employed to meet the cost, performance and schedule requirements throughout task order execution.

B.2.1.5. Monthly Progress Review Report

• Provide a monthly progress report monitoring the task management, quality assurance, and configuration management applied to the task order.

B.2.2. Task 2 – Develop a Strategy and Plan to Develop Tools and support a Standards Repository

B.2.2.1. The contractor shall develop a strategy and a plan for development of tools and standards repository to support the entire standards and interoperability framework. The objective of the repository would be to establish and provide a common place where all healthcare stakeholders can go to obtain tools to develop artifacts and obtain standards for adoption, extension or modification. The contractor shall leverage the existing NIEM infrastructure and develop a NIEM like process and repository for health care domain which will be built upon the existing functionality of available tools and repositories.

B.2.2.2. The contractor shall participate in other steps and activities within the standards and interoperability framework life cycle effort in order to provide
input and plan and prioritize development activities related to tools and repository. Examples of these activities include:

- Use case development and harmonization
- NHIN Specifications Factory including platform independent specifications
- NHIN Reference Implementations
- Standards harmonization

B.2.2.3. The contractor shall complete analysis of current state of tools and repository, identify need for tools development and development a plan by completing following activities:

- Review results from other tasks and activities within the interoperability framework
- Identify critical areas that could benefit from additional tools or support
- Survey current tools that are effective, tools and resources that are inhibiting the progress, tools causing any bottlenecks; and existing Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) software vendors and tools
- Complete build/buy analysis, including long-term costs for maintenance
- Recommend software to support the process
- Develop a tools and repository support plan that delineates 1) the tools to be developed, modified or extended 2) the development organization or entity that has the best expertise and 3) an evaluation, validation and integration plan for each tool and support for the repository

B.2.2.4. The plan will focus on many key topics including but not limited to:

- Tools necessary for each step in the framework starting from development of business case and requirements to the validation of standards leveraging reference implementations and real world pilots
- Tools to extend the NIEM process, tools and resources to support model driven software development processes
- Standards developed and harmonized through other activities with the framework
- Software components that will help implement the NHIN specifications.
- Software components that are freely available to users via either open-source or open-license.
- Software components outside of the NHIN specifications that enhance health information exchange capabilities of the Reference Implementation
- Testing tools to test and validate standards
- Validation tools for reference architecture

B.2.3. Task 3 – Develop Toolset for Standards and Interoperability Framework

The Contractor shall develop the software reference implementation of NHIN capabilities. The Contractor shall:

B.2.3.1. Based upon the plan developed in the previous task, the contractor shall, with
review and approval by COTR, determine the appropriate assignments for development tasks. The contractor may take ownership to develop tools or establish and manage a sub-contracting process for extension or development of tools.

- This process shall be detailed in a sub-contracting plan which will be approved by the COTR/COR.
- This process shall include process for accounting for all of the costs associated with tools extension or development and process for identifying appropriate organization for each tool

B.2.3.2. Upon approval of the sub-contracting process plan and approval of selected organization, the contractor shall manage one or more concurrent extension and/or development processes including any development effort by the contractor.

B.2.3.3. For each tools extension or development process, the contractor shall facilitate the appropriate meetings and discussions with the participating organizations, producing a record of the proceedings.

B.2.3.4. The contractor shall leverage artifacts and outputs from other projects and tasks such as use case development, standards development, NHIN specifications development, reference implementation and others to develop toolsets for various areas:

- Development business case requirements
- Development of use cases (leveraging NIEM and IEPD resources)
- Data architecture and data model mapping
- Testing tools
- Others

B.2.3.5. During the process, the contractor shall coordinate the effort and complete following key steps:

- Ensure the production of timely and quality artifacts following industry best-practices and methods for tools and standards development
- Ensure modular development of tools, software and other artifacts so all developers can benefit from other development effort
- Execute the tools development plan involving key stakeholders and the selected domain owners
- Provide technical and functional support and program management for any sub-contracting work
- Obtain review of tools extension, modification, or new development by domain owners
- Provide technical and specialist staffing for tools development as needed for tools extension, modification, or new development carried out primarily by domain owners
• Provide project and program management so that spectrum of tools development activities adheres to approved tools development plan
• Coordinate execution of tasks and tools development with other tasks in the standards and interoperability framework such as the NIEM like health care domain program and NIEM program management office for NIEM-related aspects of this activity
• Support building of repository that can facilitate availability of source code for each individual functional components of the implementation.

Upon completion of the tools extension or development process, the contractor shall document and provide a “Lessons Learned” documenting the findings of the assessment. This effort will also develop necessary tools to support standards repository.

B.2.4. Task 4 – Process for Publishing Standards, Dissemination of Toolset and Repository

The contractor shall develop a plan and a process to manage development and maintenance of tools and standards repository. The plan will include testing mechanisms for each tool and standard, process for their release, frequency of each release and process to obtain feedback from the industry. This task will need to be well coordinated with reference implementation and pilots for NHIN. The effort will include, but not be limited to:

B.2.4.1. Testing and verification process leveraging NHIN testing infrastructure and other ONC projects related to testing infrastructure such as test cases, data and tools; leveraging artifacts developed in other projects.

B.2.4.2. Testing and verification process for reference implementation releases and their interoperability with other implementations.

B.2.4.3. Process to publish standards once they have been developed and harmonized in the other steps or projects and building them into repository.

B.2.4.4. Process to release tools and standards via a publicly available website including a deployment unit for each functional component. A deployment unit consists of a build (an executable collection of components), documents (end-user support material and release notes) and installation artifacts. This effort will leverage artifacts developed in the other projects.

B.2.5. Schedule of Deliverables

All deliverables must be provided to the COTR in electronic format, unless otherwise specified, according to the appropriate schedule. Items specified for delivery are subject to the review and approval of the COTR before final acceptance. The COTR will respond to submitted deliverables within 2 weeks of their receipt. The contractor shall make revisions as deemed necessary by the COTR.
## Deliverables Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Completion Date – time after award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TASK 1: Contract and Task-Order Management</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Post award meeting</td>
<td>Within 2 weeks after award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Task Order Management Plan</td>
<td>Draft – 15 days after award; Final – 30 days after award; updates monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Monthly Progress Reports</td>
<td>Monthly on 10th business day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Project Work Plan</td>
<td>Draft – 2 weeks after award; final – 4 weeks after award; updates monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TASK 2: Strategy and Plan for Development of Toolset and Repository</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Strategy for development of tools and repository including list of tools</td>
<td>Within 1 month of award; monthly updates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Plan for development of Tools and Repository with timelines and responsibilities including sub-contracting plan as necessary</td>
<td>Draft – 2 months after award; final – 3 months after award; updates monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Development coordinated by Prime Contractor for tools extension, modification, or new development</td>
<td>Monthly progress report after start of each tool development effort for each sub-contractor; tools and artifacts for evaluation and validation at the end of the development effort and quarterly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Tools development effort carried out by the contractor</td>
<td>Monthly progress report after tools development begins; release strategy and plan at the beginning of the process; updates monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TASK 3: Develop Toolset and Repository</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 List of tools for development</td>
<td>Initial list – 2 months after award; updates monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Toolsets for each area</td>
<td>Initial toolset – 3 months after award; new toolsets per month based upon priorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3. Lessons Learned document</td>
<td>Within 1 month of completion of the process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TASK 4: Develop Process for Publishing Standards, Dissemination of Toolset and Repository</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Process description and plan</td>
<td>Draft – 3 months after award; final – 4 months after award; updates quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Monthly Progress reports</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## B.2.6. Performance Requirements

The Performance Requirements Summary (PRS) below lists requirements that the Government will evaluate. The absence of any task order requirement from the PRS shall not detract from its enforceability nor limit the rights or remedies of the Government under any other provision of the contract, including the clauses entitled "Inspection of Services" and "Default".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Tasks</th>
<th>Task Standard</th>
<th>Method of Surveillance</th>
<th>Standard to be Met</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Task Order Management Plan</td>
<td>The management plan contains a detailed strategy and technical approach for the successful accomplishment of the objectives and outcomes discussed in the SOW. The organization resources, organization structure, staffing plan, and company emergency escalation roster is detailed and clear, and the management controls and support procedures are addressed.</td>
<td>The Project Officer will review and provide comments</td>
<td>Draft submitted 15 days after award and no more than 2 days later Final is comprehensive, incorporates Project Officer’s comments, is error free and submitted within 30 days after award and no more than 2 days later and updates are delivered as required</td>
<td>Up to 0.5% of monthly invoice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1.3 Monthly Progress Reports                        | Each progress report set forth concise statements concerning activities relevant to providing support services and include:  
- review of the work identified and accomplished during the reporting period, including a summary listing of task assignments completed, assignments in progress, any backlogged assignments, potential assignments and a high-level timeline; | The Project Officer will review and provide comments                                  | Monthly, on 10th business day and no later than 2 days later                          | Up to 1% of monthly invoice          |
## Required Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Standard</th>
<th>Method of Surveillance</th>
<th>Standard to be Met</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Current and cumulative costs expended;  
• Current and cumulative person-hours expended by labor category during the reporting period;  
• Summary of performance- statistics and service availability. | The Project Officer will review and provide comments | No more than 2 days after deadline and only minor edits required 95% of the time | Up to 1% of monthly invoice |

### 1.4 Project Work Plan

- **A written description of proposed process/strategy to execute all tasks, project activities, task prioritization, resource allocation, interdependencies and intersections with other activities and risk mitigation strategies**

  The Project Officer will review and provide comments

  No more than 2 days after deadline and only minor edits required 95% of the time

  Up to 1% of monthly invoice

### TASK 2: Strategy and Plan for Development of Toolset and repository

#### 2.1 Strategy for development of tools and repository including list of tools

- **Prepare a strategy plan to develop a repository as a common place for all healthcare stakeholders to obtain tools. Plan must leverage existing NIEM infrastructure**

  The Project Officer will review and provide comments

  Only minor edits required 95% of the time no later than 2 days after deadline

  Up to .5% of monthly invoice

#### 2.4 Tools development effort carried out by the contractor

- **Validate tools for referenced infrastructure**
- **Test tools to validate standards**

  The Project Officer will review and provide comments on the results

  Only minor edits required and submitted within 2 months after award

  Up to 1% of monthly invoice
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Tasks</th>
<th>Task Standard</th>
<th>Method of Surveillance</th>
<th>Standard to be Met</th>
<th>Deduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TASK 3: Develop Toolset and Repository</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 List of tools for development</td>
<td>Listing of all tools to be developed and related rationale identifying duplications, gaps or inconsistencies in tools and usefulness and benefits to all relevant stakeholders.</td>
<td>The Project Officer will review and provide comments</td>
<td>Only minor edits required and submitted no later than 2 days after deadline</td>
<td>Up to 1% of task monthly invoice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Toolsets for each area</td>
<td>Toolset ID and supporting description; detailed description of scenarios for each Area and functional requirements for each scenario for using toolsets</td>
<td>The Project Officer will review and provide comments</td>
<td>Error free analysis of usefulness and Analysis submitted monthly Only minor edits required and submitted no later than 2 days after deadline</td>
<td>Up to 2% of monthly invoice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TASK 4: Develop Process for Publishing Standards, Dissemination of Toolset and Repository</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Process description and plan</td>
<td>Describe processes to develop and maintain a tools and standards repository. Include testing and release standards</td>
<td>The Project Officer will review and solicit comments from users</td>
<td>Processes validated 90% of the time -Only minor edits required and submitted no later than 2 days after deadline</td>
<td>Up to 2% of monthly invoice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B.2.7. Incentives

Performance Incentives: The PRS outlines the criteria and performance objectives against which this task order will be evaluated. Based on the results of the quality assurance determination, the following performance incentives may be invoked at the discretion of the Government:

Positive Incentives may be applied if the quality assurance determination finds that the Contractor has exceeded expectations.

1. If performance has exceeded minimum standard for 4 months, reduce Government oversight of contractor reporting.
2. If performance exceeds standard, record details in the quality assurance determination and make available for past performance evaluation.

Negative Incentives may be applied at the discretion of the Government if the quality assurance determination finds that performance falls below the standard:

1. If performance is below identified minimum standards, details will be recorded on the quality assurance determination and made available for past performance evaluation.
2. If performance is below minimum standards as set forth in the PRS, Government oversight of Contractor reporting will be increased.
3. If performance is below minimum standards, the Government can require the Contractor to perform remedial work at the Contractor’s expense.
INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS

The Government intends to award a task order using National Institutes of Health (NIH) Information Technology Acquisition and Assessment Center’s (NITAAC) contracting vehicle.


THIS OPPORTUNITY IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO NITAAC CONTRACT HOLDERS

The offeror is expected to show a thorough understanding of the proposed tasks as specified in the Statement of Work (SOW). The proposal should address the specifications in the SOW, not simply repeat the language.

Technical proposals must be limited to a maximum of 25 single-spaced pages using font sizes no smaller than 12-point for volume text and no smaller than 8-point, single-spaced for text within graphics, tables, headers, and footer. The pitch shall be Times New Romans in Word format (MS Word 2003). All pages should be numbered. Any pages over 25 will not be considered. The page limit excludes resumes and past performance references and can be single-spaced. Resumes or CVs are only required for key personnel. Brief biographical sketches of other personnel may be provided and do not count against the 25 page limit.

In preparing their technical proposal and business proposal offerors are requested to follow the proposal format and content suggestions detailed below:

C.1. Organization of Proposal: Each offer shall consist of two separately packaged proposals:

1) A technical proposal (to include at least five past performance references) and 2) a business proposal. All information necessary to judge the technical soundness and management capabilities of the offeror will be contained in the technical proposal. The business proposal will contain all information related to the determination of the costs associated with each of the project tasks. The technical proposal shall not contain any reference to specific costs, but resource information (e.g., staff hours) may be included so that the offeror’s understanding of the scope of the work may be evaluated.

Before providing further instructions, special note is in order to clarify what is expected in the offeror’s technical proposal. The tasks and suggestions presented herein are intended as a guide to prospective offerors. The successful contractor is expected to be innovative in the approach recommended. The information presented is not intended to restrict an offeror’s proposal or to stifle creativity.

C.2. Organization of the Technical Proposal: The technical proposal shall contain:

1. Transmittal and Cover Page: The offeror’s transmittal and cover letter for the proposal must contain the name, phone number, and e-mail address of the person to be contacted concerning any matter related to the solicitation. HHS may, for example, contact that individual to schedule and make arrangements for the offeror’s
discussion meetings, if necessary. (Excluded from the 25 page limit)

Include the following information in your proposal

a. RFP/Solicitation Number and title, DUNS number and TIN;
b. Company Name mailing address, and website address;
c. Date submitted and proposal expiration date;
d. All of the above-cited information for each entity on the proposed team, if a team is proposed;
e. Current NITAAC Schedules appropriate to this Solicitation;
f. Do you have a Government approved accounting system? If so, please identify the agency that approved the system;
g. Type of Company (i.e., small business, 8(a), woman owned, veteran owned, etc.) as validated via the Central Contractor Registration (CCR). All offerors must register on the CCR located at http://www.ccr.gov/index.asp; and
h. Company Point of Contact, Phone and Email address.

2. Table of Contents: Provide sufficient detail so that all important elements of the proposal can be located readily. (Excluded from the 25 page limit)

3. Introduction: The introduction should be a one or two page summary outlining the proposed work, the Offeror’s interest in submitting a proposal, and the importance of this effort in relation to Offeror’s overall operation. (Excluded from the 25 page limit)

4. The Offeror shall prepare a technical discussion which addresses evaluation criteria outlined below:
   - Past Performance (Excluded from 25 page limit)
   - Personnel Qualifications and Expertise
   - Technical/Management Approach
   - Discussion and Understanding of the Project

C.3. Organization of Business Proposal

The Offeror shall submit a Business Proposal using a format that provides: Pricing for the list of labor categories, hours, rates, and pricing for all proposed materials, and necessary travel (if applicable). The text portions of the Business Proposal should be double-spaced. Only list labor categories and rates already established under the CIO-SP2 contract vehicle, discounts from those rates may be listed as well.

C.4. Small Business Subcontracting Plan

Offerors other than small business concerns must submit an Individual Subcontracting Plan (Attachment D) for the Time & Material/Labor Hour contract. Submitted Plans must address subcontracting with small business (SB), veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, small disadvantaged business, and women-owned small business concerns. This plan will include subcontracting goals based on the offeror’s proposal, including the base and options. The Contractor’s Small Business Individual Subcontracting Plan (FAR 52.219-9) dated April 2008 is incorporated by reference into the contract (contingent upon
review by the Small Business Administration (SBA) Procurement Center Representative (PCR) and the HHS Small Business Specialist, and approval by the Contracting Officer). At the time of award, the Individual Subcontract Plan goals will flow down to the Individual Tasks that are expected to exceed $550,000 for other than small business concerns.

C.4.1. Small Business Goals

The small business goals for HHS are established yearly. Small business subcontracting plans should assist the Government in reaching its small business goals. The separate small business category goals are percentages of the total small business subcontracted dollars:

1. 28.0 percent of total subcontractor dollars to small business.
2. 5.0 percent of total small business subcontracting dollars to Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB).
3. 5.0 percent of total small business subcontracting dollars to a Women-Owned Small Business.
4. 3.0 percent of total small business dollars to a Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) small business.
5. 3.0 percent of total small business subcontracting dollars to a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB).

Although there is no statutory small business goal for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (VOSB), the contractor must submit a goal for VOSBs in accordance with FAR 52.219-9.

C.4.2. Small Business Subcontracting Reporting

1. If your company is required to file a small business subcontracting plan in accordance with FAR 52.219-9, please use the subcontracting plan template attached to this solicitation for that purpose.

2. The on-line Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (eSRS) must now be used for input of the reports required by FAR 52.219-9(d) (10) (iii). To comply with this requirement, please do the following:

   a. If your company does not yet have an eSRS account, then please sign up for one at [www.esrs.gov](http://www.esrs.gov). A user guide that explains how to use eSRS is available at: [http://esrs.gov/documents/esrs_contractor_user_guide_1.7.pdf](http://esrs.gov/documents/esrs_contractor_user_guide_1.7.pdf). If you notice that your company contact information or DUNS number in eSRS are not correct, then please make corrections through the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) website at [http://www.ccr.gov/](http://www.ccr.gov/). That data will flow from the CCR to the Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation (FPDS-NG), and eventually into the eSRS system. Repopulation of your eSRS contact info can take two business days after you make corrections in the CCR. Please include the e-mail addresses of the contracting officer in eSRS for notification in block 13 of the report.

   b. Starting with fiscal year 2005, submit your Summary Subcontracting Reports (SSRs – Old SF 295) and your Individual Subcontracting Reports (ISRs – Old
SF 294) for contracts into the eSRS. Midyear reports are not required in eSRS for FY 2004 and 2005.

c. For fiscal year 2006 onward also submit your midyear (March) ISRs into eSRS.

d. If you have not yet submitted a final report for any contracts closed during FY 2004 onward, you should do so now using the eSRS.

e. Please continue to submit to the Contracting Officer paper prints of all the reports you input to eSRS, until further notice. (This continues to be a FAR requirement)

f. If you have a Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) with HHS, please submit your ISRs via paper. FPDS-NG, which provides data into eSRS, does not identify subcontracting plans resulting from BPAs and other types of orders.

The evaluation will be based on the completeness, thoroughness and demonstrated capabilities of the prospective Offeror in relation to the needs of the project as set forth in the RFP. Each proposal must document the feasibility of successful implementation of the requirements of the RFP. The Offeror should show that the objectives stated in the RFP are understood and offer a logical program for their achievement. Offeror's must submit information sufficient to evaluate their proposals based on the detailed criteria listed below. Specific evaluation factors, together with the relative weights of importance are listed below. Offeror's should provide information on all of the following criteria.

1. Past Performance – 30 points maximum
2. Personnel Qualification and Expertise – 30 points maximum
3. Technical/Management Approach – 20 points maximum
4. Discussion and Understanding of the Project – 20 points maximum

MAXIMUM TECHNICAL SCORE = 100 POINTS

C.6. Organization of the Business Proposal

It is anticipated that this task order shall be awarded as a Performance-Based Time and Material type task order. The staff-loading chart included in the technical proposal should be consistent with the information provided in the business proposal. Offerors, at a minimum, shall submit business proposals in sufficient detail for the Government to determine that the estimated cost is realistic and consistent with the proposed technical approach.

Cost Information

The Offeror shall prepare a business proposal that contains all information necessary to allow for a comprehensive evaluation of the costs proposed. The business proposal shall consist of pricing discounts with the proposed labor categories and hours and an accompanying narrative that fully describes all assumptions made by the Offeror.

The pricing shall identify each category of labor proposed for performance mapped to the applicable CIO-SP2i master contract labor category, provide the price, show the
proposed discounts for the rate, and the rate proposed for the particular labor category inclusive of the discount.

EXAMPLE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labor Category</th>
<th>CIO-SP2i Rate</th>
<th>Discount%</th>
<th>HHS Rate</th>
<th>Gov’t Est. Hours</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Manager</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$72.00</td>
<td>1,920</td>
<td>$138,240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The pricing information shall include a completed Pricing Table with a breakdown of estimated costs for accomplishing each task/objective in the SOW.

Include all other direct costs associated with the performance of the required services (e.g., consultants, transportation/travel, supplies and equipment, communications, etc.). A complete explanation for each item of other direct cost detailing the rationale used in developing the cost. In addition, the Offeror shall submit supporting documentation that will facilitate the determination of whether the amounts proposed are fair and reasonable, e.g., vendor quotes for commercial-off-the-shelf products or services.

These items are critical, as the Government will evaluate the Offeror’s proposal for reasonableness and completeness/accuracy. An analysis will be done on a “total price” basis.

Cost proposals will be evaluated and compared to overall technical scores subsequent to the technical evaluation according to best-value principles.

Standard Form 1449 shall be signed by an official authorized to bind your organization.

C.7. Award Basis

The technical evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the evaluation criteria above. The Government may award a task order on the basis of initial offers received, without discussions. Therefore, each initial offer should contain the Offeror’s best terms from a cost and technical standpoint.

The following factors will be considered in evaluating proposals: Technical merit, past performance, and cost.

Award will be made to that responsible Offeror whose proposal contains the combination of evaluated factors offering the best overall value to the Government. This will be determined by comparing differences in technical merit and past performance with differences in price to the Government. In making this comparison, the Government is more concerned with obtaining superior technical merit and past performance. However, the Government will not make an award at a significantly higher cost to the Government to achieve only slightly superior technical merit.
C.8. Estimated Level of Effort

To assist Offerors in the preparation of their proposals, the Government presents the following description of the level of efforts only as an estimate. Offerors are expected to make an independent assessment of the resources required to perform the tasks described in the Statement of Work. This estimated level of effort is based on a 24-month period of performance. The level of effort should be based off the offerors prior experience.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labor Category</th>
<th>Estimated Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Manager</td>
<td>1040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>4160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Systems Architect</td>
<td>10400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior System Architect</td>
<td>12480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Writer/Editor</td>
<td>6240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Functional Analyst</td>
<td>8320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Standards and Interoperability Harmonization of Standards and Interoperability Specifications

The following criteria shall apply to all responses in reference to the Statement of Work in Attachment B. No other criteria shall be used to evaluate the technical proposals. The maximum total score any proposal can receive is 100 points. The maximum score for each criterion is indicated in parentheses. Please also refer to the Instructions to Offerors.

1. Past Performance – (30 points maximum)

The Offeror will be evaluated on the relevance and quality of its and any proposed subcontractors past performance as it relates to the probability of successful accomplishment of the contract requirements. Areas to be considered will include the offeror’s experience in performing services similar to those identified in the statement of work, its record of conforming to standards of good workmanship, adherence to contract schedules (including the administrative aspects of performance), and its history for reasonable and cooperative behavior and commitment to customer satisfaction. Offerors are cautioned that in conducting the past performance evaluation, the Government may use data provided by the offeror in its proposal and data obtained from other sources. While the Government may elect to consider data obtained from other sources, the burden of providing thorough and complete information rests on the offeror.

Offerors should note that Past Performance is related to the “quality” and how well a Contractor performed the services under a contract. Experience information necessary for evaluation of the technical evaluation factors should NOT be listed in the past performance submission.

Offerors shall submit the following information as part of their proposal:

a. A list of five (5) completed or active contracts for related or similar services. The Government will evaluate past performance on contracts that are similar in nature to the requirements of this RFP. Contracts listed shall include those entered into with the Federal Government, agencies of state and local Governments or commercial customers. Include the following information for each contract:

1. Name of Contracting Organization;
2. Contract Number;
3. Contract Type;
4. Total Contract Value;
5. Description of Requirement;
6. Contracting Officer's Name, Telephone Number, Facsimile Number and E-mail Address;
7. Contracting Officer's Technical Representative's (COTR) Name, Telephone Number, Facsimile Number and E-mail Address; and
8. **Explanation/Comments Regarding Problems Encountered and Corrective Actions Taken.**

b. Each Offeror will be evaluated on its performance under existing and prior contracts which are similar in nature to the requirements of this RFP. The Government is not required to contact all references provided by the Offeror. Also, references other than those identified by the Offeror may be contacted by the Government to obtain additional information that will be used in the evaluation of the Offeror's past performance. Information for the evaluation of past performance will be randomly requested from the list of references (see paragraph a. above) or other sources as previously stated. Performance information will be used for both responsibility determinations and as an evaluation factor to be scored.

c. Offerors are further advised that thorough and complete past performance information is required. Explanations/comments regarding problems encountered and corrective actions taken shall be addressed as a part of the quote submitted in response to this solicitation. The Government will take the Offeror's comments into consideration when conducting its past performance evaluation. **OFFERORS MAY NOT BE GIVEN ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN PAST PERFORMANCE.**

When evaluating past performance, the Government will focus on the areas of Quality of Service, Timeliness of Performance, Price/Cost Control, and Customer Satisfaction.

In particular, past performance relevant to Health IT information exchange development, NHIN architecture and solutions, NIEM process and IEPD development will be considered highly.

2. **Personnel Qualification and Expertise – (30 points maximum):**

The offeror will be evaluated on the demonstrated experience of its personnel in areas such as Health IT information exchange, industry standards, development of toolsets for key components, NHIN technical architecture and general information exchange, and security and privacy issues. The proposal must provide evidence of the overall competency of the proposed team; including relevant experience of the proposed Task Order lead and other key personnel and any consultants with the relevant technical experience. Proposed staff should have documented experience relevant to this task.

3. **Technical/Management Approach – (20 points maximum)**

The offerers will be evaluated on how they plan to staff, manage and accomplish the tasks as contained in the SOW. The proposal will be evaluated with respect to adequacy of staffing, quality and business practices (e.g. attention to customer service awareness and response and collaboration with various entities), experience, assuring quality service, minimizing personnel turnover of both key and non-key personnel, and ensuring timely delivery of services. The offeror will be evaluated based on the identification of key personnel and a description of their credentials, availability, roles, responsibilities and the relationships to the Task Order and its implementation.
4. Discussion and Understanding of the Project – (20 points maximum)

The offerors will be evaluated on their understanding of the project through the discussion and their response to this Task Order. The offeror must demonstrate understanding of the overall program and the importance of this project to achieving the overall vision of widespread use of electronic health records. The offeror should also be familiar with NIEM process, NHIN program, its goals, objectives, and vision as well as infrastructure needs. Priority will be given to submissions that do not simply repeat the statement of work, but show an independent understanding of the issues and context and challenges facing this program.

MAXIMUM TECHNICAL SCORE = 100 POINTS
Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreement

D.1. Requirements Regarding Permission to Disclose

The Contractor agrees not to disclose, verbally or in writing, information pertaining to the results or findings of work (including data base files, analyses, draft or final papers and reports) for the period of an individual delivery order under this contract without obtaining prior written approval of the task order officers. The Contractor must request approval in advance (minimum 21 days prior to release) and in writing, specifying: who or what is generating the request for advance information; when and how project results/information would be released; and what information would be released. Failure to receive response to the task order officers does not constitute approval for releasing information.

Contract Administration

D.2. Inspection and Acceptance

All work under this contract is subject to inspection and final acceptance by the Contracting Officer or the duly authorized representative of the government.

The Government’s Contracting Officer’s Technical Representative (COTR) is a duly authorized representative of the government and is responsible for inspection and acceptance of all items to be delivered under this contract.

D.3. FAR 52.252-2 CLAUSES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (FEB 1998)

This contract incorporates one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. Also, the full text of a clause may be accessed electronically at this address: http://www.arnet.gov/far/

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<tr>
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<td>Inspection of Services –Fixed Price</td>
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<tr>
<td>52.246-6</td>
<td>Inspection – Time-and-Materials and Labor hour</td>
<td>May 2001</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

D.4. Term of Contract

The period of performance shall be for 24 months after the date of award. This period may be extended in accordance with FAR 52.217-8, entitled “Option to Extend Services.”

D.5. Type of Contract

Time and Material

D.6. Schedule of Deliverables

All deliverables required shall be delivered to the COTR for review and approval. The Contractor shall prepare and submit the deliverables on the required due dates, in the quantity and format stated in the statement of work to the COTR.

A list of products to be delivered is outlined in the Schedule of Deliverables (Attachment
B) by task, description, and due date.

Schedule for delivery of work will be adjusted if ONC changes priority of work or directs Contractor to deviate from agreed work plan. Change in priority and changes in schedule/work plan will be documented in writing.

In order to perform all aspects of this contract, the Contractor shall provide personnel qualified to perform tasks identified in the statement of work. As this is a performance based contract, the COTR will use the quality assurance surveillance plan as the primary criteria to evaluate performance and to assess monetary deductions for non-performance as necessary. The Contractor is therefore advised to carefully staff the contract to offer optimal efficiency on each task. Qualifications are subject to the review of the COTR.

D.9. Federal Holidays
No services shall be performed at the Government site or deliveries made on Federal Legal Holidays shown below. The Contractor shall observe the following Federal holidays on the days observed by the Federal Government:

1. New Year’s Day January 1st
2. Martin Luther King’s Birthday Third Monday in Jan.
3. President’s Day Third Monday in Feb.
4. Memorial Day Last Monday in May
5. Independence Day July 4th
7. Columbus Day Second Monday in Oct.
8. Veteran’s Day November 11
10. Christmas Day December 25

D.10. Invoice Submission
The Contractor shall submit an ORIGINAL invoice including supporting documentation on a monthly basis to the below address and the COTR:

Division of Acquisition Management/Program Support Center
Attention: Charles R. Hicks
Parklawn Building, Room 5-101
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857
Contract Number:

The Contractor shall submit one (1) copy of the invoice including (1) copy of supporting documentation on a monthly basis, to:
1. The Contractor shall include the following minimum information on invoices:
   a. Contractor's name and invoice date;
   b. Contract number or other authorization for delivery of property or services;
   c. Description, price, and quantity of property or services actually delivered or rendered;
   d. Shipping and payment terms;
   e. Other substantiating documentation or information as required by the contract;
   f. Name (where practicable), title, telephone number, and complete mailing address of responsible official to whom payment is to be sent;
   g. The Internal Revenue Service TAX IDENTIFICATION; and
   h. Signature of an authorized official certifying the invoice to be correct and proper for payment.

2. Payment shall be made by:
   
   PSC/Financial Management Service
   Division of Financial Operations
   Parklawn Building, Room 16A-12
   5600 Fishers Lane
   Rockville, Maryland 20857
   Email: psc_psc.invoices.hhs.gov
   FOR INVOICE STATUS CALL: (301) 443-3020

Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer

Pursuant to FAR 52.232-33, Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer –Central Contractor Registration, payments under this contract shall be made by electronic funds transfer. The Contractor shall register in the Central Contractor Registration database.

D.11. Authorities Of Government Personnel

Notwithstanding the Contractor's responsibility for total management during the performance of this contract, the administration of the contract will require coordination between the Government and the Contractor. The following individuals will be the Government’s points of contact during performance of the contract.

1. Contracting Officer

   All contract administration shall be done by:
   Jacqueline R. Jones, Contracting Officer,
   Program Support Center, Division of Acquisition Management,
   5600 Fishers Lane,
   Parklawn Building, Room 5-101,
All communications pertaining to contractual and/or administrative matters under the contract shall be sent to the address above and to the attention of:

Charles R. Hicks,
Contract Specialist
Phone: (301)443-0706
Email: Charles.Hicks@psc.hhs.gov

Note: The PSC Contracting Officer is the only individual authorized to modify this requirement.

2. Contracting Officer’s Technical Representative (COTR) – TBA

3. Technical Monitoring

Performance of the work under this contract shall be subject to the technical monitoring of the COTR. The term “Technical Monitoring” is defined to include, without limitation, the following:

Technical directions to the Contractor that redirect the contract effort, shift work emphasis between work areas or assignments, require pursuit of certain lines of inquiry, fill in details or otherwise serve to accomplish the contractual scope of work.

Providing information to the Contractor for assistance in the interpretation of drawings, specifications or technical portions of the work description.

Review and, where required by the contract, approval of technical reports, drawings, specifications and technical information to be delivered by the Contractor to the Government under the contract.

Technical direction must be within the general scope of the work stated in the contract. The COTR does not have authority to and may not issue any technical direction which:

- Constitutes any assignment of additional work outside the general scope of the contract;
- Constitutes a change as defined in the contract clause entitled, “Changes”;
- In any manner causes an increase in the total contract cost or the time required for contract performance; or
- Changes any of the expressed terms, conditions, or specifications of the contract.

All technical directions shall be issued in writing by the COTR or shall be confirmed by him/her in writing with five (5) working days after issuance.
The Contractor shall proceed promptly with the performance of technical directions duly issued by the Project Officer in the manner prescribed within his authority under this provision.

If, in the opinion of the Contractor, any instruction or direction issued by the COTR is within one of the categories as defined in (i) through (iv) above, the Contractor shall not proceed, but shall notify the Contracting Officer in writing within five (5) working days after the receipt of any such instruction or direction and shall request the Contracting Officer to modify the contract accordingly. Upon receiving such notification from the Contractor, the Contracting Officer shall issue an appropriate contract modification or advise the Contractor in writing that, in his/her opinion, the technical direction is within the scope of this article and does not constitute a change under the Changes Clause of the contract. The Contractor shall thereupon proceed immediately with the direction given. A failure of the parties to agree upon the nature of the instruction or direction or upon the contract action to be taken with respect thereto shall be subject to the provisions of the contract clause entitled, “Disputes”.

D.12. Travel (if applicable)

The contractor will not be entitled to re-imbursement for local travel costs to and from normal job site. Such travel costs are to be incorporated within the negotiated hourly rate of payment. Personnel temporarily working at a government site or alternative facility will consider such facility his/her normal job site.

When requested by the COTR to travel outside the contractor’s normal commuting area, the contractor shall be reimbursed for such travel costs in addition to receiving an hourly rate of payment for services (prior approval must be attained in writing). All travel costs associated with the performance of specific Task Orders will be reimbursed in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations (FTR). Costs incurred for transportation and per diem (lodging, meals and incidental expenses) will be billed in accordance with the regulatory implementation of Public Law 99-234, FAR 31.205-46 Travel Costs, and the contractor’s cost accounting system.

The contractor shall notify the COTR and/or Contracting Officer for reimbursement of transportation and per diem expenses, prior to traveling. The contractor’s reimbursement is limited by regulations of the General Services Administration (GSA) as applied to Civil Service employee travel. Costs for transportation, lodging, meals, and incidental expenses incurred by contractor personnel on official company business are allowable subject to the limitations contained in FAR 31.205-46 Travel Costs.

The following summarizes some of the basic travel reimbursement policies:

1. Travel by air authorized for coach only. Travel by train and bus authorized for up to first class. Contractor is expected to plan sufficiently to take advantage of discount fares [http://apps.fas.gsa.gov/citypairs/search/index.cfm?ft];

2. Local transportation including transportation to and from airports, bus terminals, and railway stations;
3. Private auto at current GSA rates when private auto travel combined with per diem is less than the cost by common carrier including per diem [http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/contentView.do?contentType=GSA_BASIC&contentId=17943];

4. Parking/tolls for automobile travel;

5. Rental car, not to exceed compact vehicle, when approved in advance by the COTR;

6. Per diem at rates established by the GSA.

Travel claims shall be submitted on a voucher per instructions provided by the COTR. Listed below is a description of receipts required as attachments to the invoice to support travel claims:

1. Copy of common carrier ticket reflecting class of travel, dates of travel and amount of fare;

2. Lodging receipt;

3. Parking/tolls receipt;

4. Rental car receipt including receipts for gasoline;

5. Receipts for taxi travel.

When the contractor is requested by the COTR to travel outside the contractor’s normal commuting area to deliver services, the contractor will be entitled to their normal hourly payment for the time that they are in transit. Such in transit time shall be determined by the usual and customary time for travel between the respective points when considering both the cost and time required for the mode of travel. For example, if the contractor has to travel to San Francisco for a project then they will get paid at their normal hourly rate for their hours of traveling. Total travel expenses will not exceed the amount specified in this contract without prior written consent of the Contracting Officer.

Domestic travel expenses incurred by the Contractor in direct performance of this requirement shall be reimbursed provided such travel is necessary for the performance of this requirement and the cost does not exceed: the lowest customary standard, coach, or equivalent airfare offered during normal business hours for air travel. Other Direct Costs (ODC) shall be negotiated for each requirement and all invoices shall be supported by receipts.

D.13. Special Contract Requirements

D.13.1. HHS-Controlled Facilities and Information Systems Security

(a) To perform the work specified herein, Contractor personnel are expected to have routine (1) physical access to an HHS-controlled facility; (2) logical access to an HHS-controlled information system; (3) access to sensitive HHS data or information, whether in an HHS-controlled information system or in hard copy; or (4) any combination of circumstances (1) through (3).

(b) To gain routine physical access to an HHS facility, logical access to an HHS-controlled information system, and/or access to sensitive data or information, the Contractor and its employees shall comply with Homeland Security Presidential
Directive (HSPD)-12, Policy for a Common Identification Standard for Federal Employees and Contractors; Office of Management and Budget memorandum (M-05-24); and Federal Information Processing Standards Publication (FIPS PUB) Number 201; and with the personal identity verification and investigation procedures contained in the following documents:

1. HHS Information Security Program Policy
3. HHS HSPD-12 Policy Document, v. 2.0

(c) This contract/order will entail the following position sensitivity level(s): Level 1 (Non Sensitive).

(d) The personnel investigation procedures for Contractor personnel require that the Contractor prepare and submit background check/investigation forms based on the type of investigation required. The minimum Government investigation for a non-sensitive position is a National Agency Check and Inquiries (NACI) with fingerprinting. More restricted positions, i.e., those above non-sensitive, require more extensive documentation and investigation.

As part of its proposal, and if the anticipated position sensitivity levels are specified in paragraph (c) above, the Offeror shall notify the Contracting Officer of (1) its proposed personnel who will be subject to a background check/investigation and (2) whether any of its proposed personnel who will work under the contract have previously been the subject of national agency checks or background investigations.

(The Contracting Officer shall include the following sentence in each contract/order as the concluding sentence in paragraph (d) in lieu of the solicitation language: “The Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer in advance when any new personnel, who are subject to a background check/investigation, will work under the contract and if they have previously been the subject of national agency checks or background investigations.”)

(e) Investigations are expensive and may delay performance, regardless of the outcome of the investigation. Delays associated with rejections and consequent re-investigations may not be excusable in accordance with the FAR clause, Excusable Delays – see FAR 52.249-14.

Accordingly, if position sensitivity levels are specified in paragraph (c), the Offeror shall ensure that the employees it proposes for work under this contract have a reasonable chance for approval.

The Contracting Officer shall include the following sentence in each contract/order as the concluding sentence in paragraph (e) in lieu of the solicitation language: “Accordingly, the Contractor shall ensure that any additional employees whose names it submits for work under this contract have a reasonable chance for approval.”)

(f) Typically, the Government investigates personnel at no cost to the Contractor. However, multiple investigations for the same position may, at the Contracting
Officer’s discretion, justify reduction(s) in the contract price of no more than the cost of the additional investigation(s).

(g) The Contractor shall include language similar to this “HHS-Controlled Facilities and Information Systems Security” language in all subcontracts that require subcontractor personnel to have the same frequency and duration of (1) physical access to an HHS-controlled facility; (2) logical access to an HHS-controlled information system; (3) access to sensitive HHS data/information, whether in an HHS-controlled information system or in hard copy; or (4) any combination of circumstances (1) through (3).

(h) The Contractor shall direct inquiries, including requests for forms and assistance, to the Contracting Officer or designee.

(i) Within 7 calendar days after the Government's final acceptance of the work under this contract, or upon termination of the contract, the Contractor shall return all identification badges to the Contracting Officer or designee.

D.13.2. HHSAR 352.270-19(a) Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility (XXXXXXX 2008)

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board Electronic and Information (EIT) Accessibility Provisions (36 CFR part 1194), require that, unless an exception applies, all EIT products and services developed, acquired, maintained, or used by any Federal department or agency permit:

(1) Federal employees with disabilities to have access to and use information and data that is comparable to the access and use of information and data by Federal employees who are not individuals with disabilities; and

(2) Members of the public with disabilities seeking information or services from a Federal agency to have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access and use of information and data by members of the public who are not individuals with disabilities.

Accordingly, any vendor submitting a proposal/quotation/bid in response to this solicitation must demonstrate compliance with the established EIT accessibility provisions. Information about Section 508 is available at http://www.section508.gov/. The complete text of Section 508 Final Provisions can be accessed at http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/provisions.htm.

The Section 508 standards applicable to this solicitation are identified in the Statement of Work/Specification/Performance Work Statement. In order to facilitate the Government’s evaluation to determine whether EIT products and services proposed meet applicable Section 508 accessibility standards, offerors must prepare an HHS Section 508 Product Assessment Template, in accordance with its completion instructions, and provide a binding statement of conformance. The purpose of the template is to assist HHS acquisition and program officials in determining that EIT products and services proposed support applicable Section 508 accessibility standards. The template allows vendors or developers to self-evaluate their products or services and document in detail how they do or do not conform to a specific Section 508 standard. Instructions for preparing the HHS
Section 508 Product Assessment Template may be found at http://508.hhs.gov.

Respondents to this solicitation must also provide any additional detailed information necessary for determining applicable Section 508 standards conformance, as well as for documenting EIT products and/or services that are incidental to the project, which would constitute an exception to Section 508 requirements. If a vendor claims its products and/or services, including EIT deliverables such as electronic documents and reports, meet applicable Section 508 standards in its completed HHS Section 508 Product Assessment Template, and it is later determined by the Government – i.e., after award of a contract/order, that products and/or services delivered do not conform to the described accessibility in the Product Assessment Template, remediation of the products and/or services to the level of conformance specified in the vendor’s Product Assessment Template will be the responsibility of the Contractor at its expense.

D.13.3. HHSAR 352.270-19(b) Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility (XXXXXXX 2008)


The Section 508 standards applicable to this contract/order are identified in the Statement of Work/Specification/Performance Work Statement. The contractor must provide a written Section 508 conformance certification due at the end of each order/contract exceeding $100,000 when the order/contract duration is one year or less. If it is determined by the Government that EIT products and services provided by the Contractor do not conform to the described accessibility in the Product Assessment Template, remediation of the products and/or services to the level of conformance specified in the vendor’s Product Assessment Template will be the responsibility of the Contractor at its own expense.

In the event of a modification(s) to this contract/order, which adds new EIT products and services or revises the type of, or specifications for, products and services the Contractor is to provide, including EIT deliverables such as electronic documents and reports, the Contracting Officer may require that the contractor submit a completed HHS Section 508 Product Assessment Template to assist the Government in determining that the EIT products and services support Section 508 accessibility requirements. Instructions for documenting accessibility via the HHS Section 508 Product Assessment Template may be found at http://508.hhs.gov.

Schedule for Contractor Submission of Section 508 Annual Report

See Attachment B, Item B of the Deliverable Schedule.

Access to Sensitive Information and Information Systems
The Contractor shall develop, provide, implement, and maintain an IT Security Plan. This plan shall describe the processes and procedures that will be followed to ensure appropriate security of IT resources that are developed, processed, or used under this contract. The plan shall describe those parts of the contract to which this clause applies. The Contractor's IT Security Plan shall comply with applicable Federal laws, specifically:

2. E-Government Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-347);
3. Privacy Act (P.L. 93-879);
4. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (P.L. 104-191);
6. Trade Secrets Act (18 U.S.C. 1905); and

The plan shall meet IT security requirements in accordance with Federal policies and procedures, as they may be amended from time to time during the term of this contract that include, specifically:

3. OMB Memorandum M-05-8, Implementing Guidance for HSPD-12;
5. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Guidelines and Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS), including, but not limited to;
6. NIST Special Publications (800 Series) (http://all.net/books/standards/NIST-CSRC/csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/index.html);
7. NIST Special Publication 800-26, Security Self-Assessment Guide for Information Technology Systems (November 2001);
8. NIST Special Publication 800-53, Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems (February 2005);
11. Federal Information Processing Standard 201 (FIPS 201); and
12. FIPS Publication 140-2 (FIPS 140-2).


The key personnel specified in this contract are considered to be essential to work performance. At least 30 days prior to diverting any of the specified individuals to other
programs or contracts (or as soon as possible, if an individual must be replaced, for example, as a result of leaving the employ of the Contractor), the Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer and shall submit comprehensive justification for the diversion or replacement request (including proposed substitutions for key personnel) to permit evaluation by the Government of the impact on performance under this contract. The Contractor shall not divert or otherwise replace any key personnel without the written consent of the Contracting Officer. The Government may modify the contract to add or delete key personnel at the request of the contractor or Government.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>To be entered upon award.</td>
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D.15. Organizational Conflicts of Interest – General

The Contractor warrants that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, and except as otherwise set forth in this task order, they do not have any organizational conflict of interest as defined in the paragraph below.

The term "organizational conflict of interest" means a situation where a Contractor has interests, either due to its other activities or its relationships with other organizations, which place it in a position that may be unsatisfactory or unfavorable (i) from the Government's standpoint in being able to secure impartial, technically sound, objective assistance and advice from the Contractor, or in securing the advantages of adequate competition in its procurement; or (ii) from industry's standpoint in that unfair competitive advantages may accrue to the Contractor in question.

The Contractor agrees that, if after award he discovers an organizational conflict of interest with respect to this task order, he shall make an immediate and full disclosure in writing to the Contracting Officer, which shall include a description of the action, which the Contractor has taken or proposes to take to avoid, eliminate or neutralize the conflict. The Government may, however, terminate the contract for the convenience of the Government if it would be in the best interests of the Government.

In the event that the Contractor was aware of organizational conflict of interest prior to the award of this task order and intentionally did not disclose the conflict to the Contracting Officer, the Government may terminate the task order at no cost to the Government.

D.16. Contractor Performance Evaluation

During the life of this order, the Contractor’s performance will be evaluated on an interim and final basis pursuant to FAR Subpart 42.15. The evaluation will be conducted utilizing the National Institutes of Health Contractor Performance System (CPS). The Contractor shall register in the CPS. The CPS may be accessed by the Contractor at https://cpsContractor.nih.gov.

D.17. CONTRACT CLAUSES

Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) 48 CFR Chapter Clauses
I.1. **Solicitation Provisions Incorporated By Reference (Far 52.252-1, February 1998) & Clauses Incorporated By Reference (Far 52.252-2, February 1998)**

This contract incorporates some FAR provisions/clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Upon request, the Contracting Officer will make their full text available. Also, the full text of a clause may be accessed electronically at this/these address(es): [http://www.arnet.gov/far/index.html](http://www.arnet.gov/far/index.html). The applicable provisions/clauses are as follows:

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<td>Covenant Against Contingent Fees</td>
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<td>Anti-Kickback Procedures</td>
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<td>Cancellation, Rescission, and Recovery of Funds for Illegal or Improper Activity</td>
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<td>52.203-10</td>
<td>Price or Fee Adjustment for Illegal or Improper Activity</td>
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<td>Central Contractor Registration</td>
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<td>52.212-1</td>
<td>Instructions to Offerors – Commercial Items</td>
<td>June 2008</td>
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<td>52.212-3</td>
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<td>52.233-4</td>
<td>Applicable Law for Breach of Contract Claim</td>
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D.18. Contract Terms and Conditions Required To Implement Statutes Or Executive Orders—Commercial Items (Far 52.212-5, December 2009)

FAR 52.212-5 states the following:

(a) The Contractor shall comply with the following Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clauses, which are incorporated in this contract by reference, to implement provisions of law or Executive orders applicable to acquisitions of commercial items:

1. 52.222-50, Combating Trafficking in Persons (Feb 2009) (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)).
   [ ] Alternate I (Aug 2007) of 52.222-50 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)).


(b) The Contractor shall comply with the FAR clauses in this paragraph (b) that the Contracting Officer has indicated as being incorporated in this contract by reference to implement provisions of law or Executive orders applicable to acquisitions of commercial items:

[Contracting Officer check as appropriate.]


2. (2) 52.203-13, Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct (Dec 2008) (Pub. L. 110-252, Title VI, Chapter 1 (41 U.S.C. 251 note)).


6. (6) 52.219-4, Notice of Price Evaluation Preference for HUBZone Small Business Concerns (July 2005) (if the offeror elects to waive the preference, it shall so indicate in its offer) (15 U.S.C. 657a).

7. (7) [Reserved]

(ii) Alternate I (Oct 1995) of 52.219-6.

(iii) Alternate II (Mar 2004) of 52.219-6.


(iii) Alternate II (Mar 2004) of 52.219-7.

(10) 52.219-8, Utilization of Small Business Concerns (May 2004) (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(2) and (3)).


(iii) Alternate II (Oct 2001) of 52.219-9.

(12) 52.219-14, Limitations on Subcontracting (Dec 1996) (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(14)).

(13) 52.219-16, Liquidated Damages-Subcontracting Plan (Jan 1999) (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(4)(F)(ii)).

(14)(i) 52.219-23, Notice of Price Evaluation Adjustment for Small Disadvantaged Business Concerns (Oct 2008) (10 U.S.C. 2323) (if the offeror elects to waive the adjustment, it shall so indicate in its offer).

(ii) Alternate I (June 2003) of 52.219-23.


(18) 52.219-28, Post Award Small Business Program Representation (Apr 2009) (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)).

(19) 52.222-3, Convict Labor (June 2003) (E.O. 11755).


(21) 52.222-21, Prohibition of Segregated Facilities (Feb 1999).

(22) 52.222-26, Equal Opportunity (Mar 2007) (E.O. 11246).


[ ] (26) 52.222-54, Employment Eligibility Verification (JAN 2009). (Executive Order 12989). (Not applicable to the acquisition of commercially available off-the-shelf items or certain other types of commercial items as prescribed in 22.1803.)

[ ] (27)(i) 52.223-9, Estimate of Percentage of Recovered Material Content for EPA–Designated Items (May 2008) (42 U.S.C. 6962(c)(3)(A)(iii)). (Not applicable to the acquisition of commercially available off-the-shelf items.)

[ ] (ii) Alternate I (May 2008) of 52.223-9 (42 U.S.C. 6962(i)(2)(C)). (Not applicable to the acquisition of commercially available off-the-shelf items.)


[ ] (ii) Alternate I (DEC 2007) of 52.223-16.


[ ] (ii) Alternate I (Jan 2004) of 52.225-3.

[ ] (iii) Alternate II (Jan 2004) of 52.225-3.


[ ] (33) 52.225-13, Restrictions on Certain Foreign Purchases (June 2008) (E.O.’s, proclamations, and statutes administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury).

[ ] (34) 52.226-4, Notice of Disaster or Emergency Area Set-Aside (Nov 2007) (42 U.S.C. 5150).

[ ] (35) 52.226-5, Restrictions on Subcontracting Outside Disaster or Emergency Area (Nov 2007) (42 U.S.C. 5150).


(39) \[52.232-34\], Payment by Electronic Funds Transfer-Other than Central Contractor Registration (May 1999) (31 U.S.C. 3332).


(42)(i) \[52.247-64\], Preference for Privately Owned U.S.-Flag Commercial Vessels (Feb 2006) (46 U.S.C. Appx. 1241(b) and 10 U.S.C. 2631).

(ii) Alternate I (Apr 2003) of \[52.247-64\].

(c) The Contractor shall comply with the FAR clauses in this paragraph (c), applicable to commercial services, that the Contracting Officer has indicated as being incorporated in this contract by reference to implement provisions of law or Executive orders applicable to acquisitions of commercial items:

[\textit{Contracting Officer check as appropriate}.]


(5) \[52.222-51\], Exemption from Application of the Service Contract Act to Contracts for Maintenance, Calibration, or Repair of Certain Equipment-Requirements (Nov 2007) (41 351, et seq.).


(8) \[52.237-11\], Accepting and Dispensing of $1 Coin (Sept 2008) (31 U.S.C. 5112(p)(1)).

(d) \textit{Comptroller General Examination of Record}. The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of this paragraph (d) if this contract was awarded using other than sealed bid, is in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold, and does not contain the clause at \[52.215-2\], Audit and Records-Negotiation.

(1) The Comptroller General of the United States, or an authorized representative of the Comptroller General, shall have access to and right to examine any of the Contractor’s directly pertinent records involving transactions related to this contract.
(2) The Contractor shall make available at its offices at all reasonable times the records, materials, and other evidence for examination, audit, or reproduction, until 3 years after final payment under this contract or for any shorter period specified in FAR Subpart 4.7, Contractor Records Retention, of the other clauses of this contract. If this contract is completely or partially terminated, the records relating to the work terminated shall be made available for 3 years after any resulting final termination settlement. Records relating to appeals under the disputes clause or to litigation or the settlement of claims arising under or relating to this contract shall be made available until such appeals, litigation, or claims are finally resolved.

(3) As used in this clause, records include books, documents, accounting procedures and practices, and other data, regardless of type and regardless of form. This does not require the Contractor to create or maintain any record that the Contractor does not maintain in the ordinary course of business or pursuant to a provision of law.

(e)(1) Notwithstanding the requirements of the clauses in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d) of this clause, the Contractor is not required to flow down any FAR clause, other than those in this paragraph (e)(1) in a subcontract for commercial items. Unless otherwise indicated below, the extent of the flow down shall be as required by the clause-

(i) 52.203-13, Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct (Dec 2008) (Pub. L. 110-252, Title VI, Chapter 1 (41 U.S.C. 251 note)).

(ii) 52.219-8, Utilization of Small Business Concerns (May 2004) (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(2) and (3)), in all subcontracts that offer further subcontracting opportunities. If the subcontract (except subcontracts to small business concerns) exceeds $550,000 ($1,000,000 for construction of any public facility), the subcontractor must include 52.219-8 in lower tier subcontracts that offer subcontracting opportunities.

(iii) [Reserved]

(iv) 52.222-26, Equal Opportunity (Mar 2007) (E.O. 11246).


(vii) [Reserved]


(ix) 52.222-50, Combating Trafficking in Persons (Feb 2009) (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)).

[ ] Alternate I (Aug 2007) of 52.222-50 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)).

(xii) 52.222-54, Employment Eligibility Verification (JAN 2009).
(xiii) 52.226-6, Promoting Excess Food Donation to Nonprofit Organizations (Mar 2009) (Pub. L. 110-247). Flow down required in accordance with paragraph (e) of FAR clause 52.226-6.
(xiv) 52.247-64, Preference for Privately Owned U.S.-Flag Commercial Vessels (Feb 2006) (46 U.S.C. Appx. 1241(b) and 10 U.S.C. 2631). Flow down required in accordance with paragraph (d) of FAR clause 52.247-64.

(2) While not required, the contractor may include in its subcontracts for commercial items a minimal number of additional clauses necessary to satisfy its contractual obligations.

(End of clause)


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All other NITAAC terms and condition of which apply herein.