

Request for Proposals, Solicitation for Providing Cyber Security Services
for the U.S. Academic Research Fleet

Response to Offeror Questions
January 18, 2023

1. Will all ships be available for 2 site visits (as referenced on page 12) in the first year of service? Please provide a ship schedule to facilitate the development of a project plan and travel estimations to support.
 - a. *The schedule for the ships in the Academic Research Fleet can be viewed at <https://mfp.us/>. Not all ships will be available for two site visits in the first year. For purposes of the proposal, the offeror should list their assumptions regarding the site visits and may choose to constrain the geographic locations of those visits.*
2. Will the previous assessment findings and/or asset inventory reports for systems onboard be made available to the awarded contractor? If so, does RCUH expect the incoming contractor to utilize these documents?
 - a. *Any previous assessment findings and asset inventory reports will be made available and the awarded contractor will be able to determine whether using that information will benefit their ability to perform the requirements described in Section 2, Statement of Work.*
3. Will RCUH consider providing a seven (7) day extension to allow added time to incorporate Q&A responses into our proposal?
 - a. *RCUH does not believe that these answers will materially affect an offeror's ability to respond to the RFP and would prefer that the schedule of dates remains as stated in Section 1.2.*
4. Does RCUH request monitoring of all IT and OT networks?
 - a. *The offeror is encouraged to propose the best cost-effective solution to network monitoring, including both IT and OT networks.*
5. Is there Virtual Machine space for log collection, aggregation, and network security tools?
 - a. *The offeror should assume that such virtual machine space will be available.*
6. On page 11, The RFP specifies: "The SOC will document each Information Security Event in accordance with requirements." What are the requirements being referenced?
 - a. *The words "in accordance with requirements" are hereby deleted from this sentence in the RFP.*
7. How many webinars are to be included in each annual series as referenced on page 12? What is the expected length for each webinar?
 - a. *The offeror should propose examples of webinars or other forms of communication that would be suitable for the intended purpose.*
8. Will the RCUH accept limits to the frequency of "intervals determined by the ARF security staff" for scanning and reporting on vulnerabilities as referenced on page 12 of the RFP?
 - a. *Yes, but the offeror must specify those limits and that response will be compared to other potential proposals when evaluating them according to the criteria established in Section 4.3.*

9. What is the expected LOE for the Project Liaison role? Will 24x7 availability be required?
 - a. *The offeror should propose the level of effort for the Project Liaison as well as their availability and the method of contact with the Project Liaison.*
10. Can we anticipate that there will be enough computer rack space on each vessel for the install of required hardware components to support the contract or are some vessels space constrained?
 - a. *The offeror should assume that there are no significant space constraints.*
11. "Describe the methods, approach, and format in which the development of Cyber Security Services for the U.S. Academic Research Fleet will be gathered, presented, transmitted and implemented." Please confirm that this requirement on page 16 should be addressed individually for each technical scope area.
 - a. *Yes, the requirement should be addressed individually for each technical scope area.*
12. For the option years, please confirm that the scope is limited to SOC support, training, Virtual CISO, and virtual security team services.
 - a. *For the option years, the scope of work should be assumed to be that described in Section 2, Statement of Work.*
13. In the section titled Vulnerability Management (RFP Page 12), OT is specifically omitted as part of this vulnerability plan. If a contractor determined a safe method of identifying vulnerabilities on the ship's safety critical systems in the OT networks, would the University of Hawaii Marine Center be open to including OT in that vulnerability management framework?
 - a. *Yes.*
14. Under the "Advisory and Project liaison Services" there is a requirement to visit the vessel for onboarding SOC services within the "first year of service." Does the "first year of service" refer to a one-year period from the start of contract where the contractor is deploying monitoring technology for SOC services or does it refer to the first year of SOC services once up and running after deployment?
 - a. *The "first year of service" will begin on the effective date of the agreement for services awarded as described in Section 4.4.*
15. The price proposal section specifies that the contractor shall "provide a firm fixed price proposal with a payment schedule that is based on work completed during the first year." Does the "first year" refer to a one-year period from the start of contract or does it refer to the first year of SOC services once up and running after deployment?
 - a. *The "first year of service" will begin on the effective date of the agreement for services awarded as described in Section 4.4.*
16. RCUH released a similar RFP in October 2020 to develop cyber security compliance documentation for the U.S. ARF. Can RCUH provide a status on that contract? Will the contractor for this proposed work be required to integrate with an ongoing effort and/or utilize artifacts developed by a previous contractor?
 - a. *That RFP resulted in an agreement for services with a service period of November 20, 2020 through November 19, 2021. The statement of work for the current RFP does not state any requirement to integrate with an ongoing effort or to utilize artifacts developed by a previous contractor.*

17. Page 10 – Does RCUH expect 24x7x365 support at both SOC locations, or does RCUH want 24x7x365 across both SOC locations?
 - a. *The offeror should propose how they will best meet the requirements in the statement of work. Keep in mind that the proposal evaluation will select the proposal with the best combination of technical merit and price along with other categories as stated in Section 4.3.*

18. Page 10 - Is the SOC expected to be fully operational (24x7x365) on the first day of the contract, i.e., 17 Feb?
 - a. *The offeror should propose how they will best meet the requirements in the statement of work. Keep in mind that the proposal evaluation will select the proposal with the best combination of technical merit and price along with other categories as stated in Section 4.3.*

19. Page 13 - How many hours do you consider an FTE?
 - a. *The offeror should assume that an FTE includes 2080 hours of effort.*

20. Page 14 – is the “break glass” IRT to be priced out as part of the proposal, or is this an optional task that we should price separately?
 - a. *The offeror should propose how they will best meet the requirements in the statement of work. Keep in mind that the proposal evaluation will select the proposal with the best combination of technical merit and price along with other categories as stated in Section 4.3.*

21. Page 15 – is the kickoff mtg virtual or in person?
 - a. *The kick-off meeting will be virtual.*