

Superfund Quality and Sample Support (QSS) Webinar Questions and Answers (Q&A)
December 8, 2021

1. Will a Sources Sought for the QSS solicitation be issued prior to the Request for Proposal (RFP) release?

No, a Sources Sought will not be issued prior to the release of the QSS RFP.

2. What is the anticipated QSS RFP release date?

The anticipated RFP release date is Fiscal Year 2022, Quarter 2.

3. Will there be a geographical restriction requiring the prime contractor facility to be located within driving distance from EPA Headquarters in Washington DC?

No, this is not a QSS requirement.

4. Does the CLPSS or EPA plans to include a GIS or geospatial component?

No, GIS or geospatial services are not a part of the QSS Performance Work Statement (PWS).

5. Does EPA currently use commercially available off-the-shelf (COTS) software packages as part of the QSS Contract?

Yes, the Analytical Services Branch (ASB) currently uses, for example, OBIEE for Reporting in the Oracle Business Intelligence (BI) tool and instrumentation software for data package auditing with the reconstructing analytical runs.

6. I understand that EPA has a separate contract for Quality Assurance Technical Support (QATS) support, would the vendor for that contract be barred from bidding on QSS?

The ASB has a current QATS contract that will be utilized through July 2023. The Government has included important task areas from the current QATS contract in the QSS PWS. If the QSS RFP is released with the PWS as currently written, the QATS contract will not be separately reprocured.

Please review the forthcoming Conflict of Interest (COI) Provisions and Clauses which will be publicized prior to the release of the RFP. The COI consideration is the QSS contractor cannot hold a current CLP analytical contract - the Combined Analytical Services Contract (CASC). The requirements to perform the QSS contract are detailed in the PWS.

7. The presentation identifies the contract type as IDIQ w/Fixed Price TOs. Does this mean this is a FFP contract or T&M?

The contract type is Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ). All work will be performed at the Task Order (TO) level with task areas proposed as either firm fixed price (FFP) or Time and Materials (T&M). T&M task areas will be performed using EPA-approved fixed rates.

8. Do primes need CMMI Level 3 or can a major subcontractor provide this certification?

Yes, the prime contractor shall propose and maintain the CMMI Level 3 (or similar) certification. A subcontractor may also hold the proposed certification; however, the prime must propose their own certification as the QSS contractor.

9. Please share list of attendees to webinar to foster formation of teams for QSS. That way EPA may receive the best solution.

The ASB is not permitted to share the list of attendees due to the Personal Identifiable Information (PII) contained therein. Please contact Contracting Officer Ross Miller with QSS teaming questions.

10. Can a small business apply only for a particular Task that we can support entirely?

No, an offeror's proposal must address all Task Areas to be eligible for evaluation.

11. Where may I locate the QSS requirement online?

Please visit SAM.gov and FedConnect.net and use the procurement's reference number "68HERH21R0030" to locate the requirement. Please also consider signing in to Fedconnect.net to register interest in this opportunity.

12. Where can I learn more about the QSS requirement?

Please review the final PWS on SAM.gov, review the Q&As, access the presentation materials at <http://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/QSS-PreSol/>, review the Conflict of Interest provisions and clauses when they are published on SAM.gov, and submit questions to Contracting Officer Ross Miller (miller.ross@epa.gov) and Contract Specialist Eric Langett (langett.eric@epa.gov).