

PROCUREMENT PROCESS

SOLICITATION TIMELINE:

Issuance of RFP	SEPTEMBER 27, 2019
Last Day To Submit Questions	OCTOBER 11, 2019
Proposal packets due	NOVEMBER 14, 2019 @ 2:00 PM (PT)
Interviews (if required)*	WEEK OF DECEMBER 2, 2019
Final Selection*	DECEMBER 16, 2019
Execute Contract*	DECEMBER 30, 2019

*Dates are tentative.

**Dependent on Commission approval.

All status updates on the above solicitation timeline will be announced on The [NWSA](#) website.

VENDOR OBLIGATION

Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals and Request for Qualifications can be accessed on NWSA's website <https://www.nwseaportalliance.com/about/contracting>.

COMMUNICATION / INQUIRES

Proposers who, relative to this scope of services, contact any individuals or Commission members representing NWSA, other than the Procurement Representative listed on the RFI may be disqualified from consideration.

Written questions about the meaning or intent of the Solicitation Documents shall only be submitted to the Procurement Department, (**Solicitation Name** in the subject line).

Proposers who may have questions about provisions of these documents are to email their questions by the date listed above. NWSA will respond to all written questions submitted by this deadline.

ADDENDA

NWSA may make changes to this Solicitation. Oral or other interpretations, clarifications or submittal instructions will be without legal effect. Any information modifying a solicitation will be furnished in a formal, written addendum. If at any time, NWSA changes, revises, deletes, increases, or otherwise modifies the Solicitation, NWSA will issue a written Addendum to the Solicitation. Addenda will be posted to NWSA's web site and conveyed to those potential submitters who have requested to be placed on the Holder's List.

SUBMITTAL PROCESS

Proposals must be received via email on or before the date and time outlined on the front page of this proposal. Send your electronic submittal to:

NWSAprocurement@nwseaportalliance.com
Name of Firm, RFP Title (Subject Line)

Please submit proposal, including all appendices and compensation in separate Adobe Acrobat PDF format. Submittals need to be limited to **9 MB in total email size**. It is the **Consultant's responsibility to verify the receipt of the submittal**. Electronic verification will be provided upon request.

***Late proposals will not be accepted by NWSA. Proposals received after the stated date and time will not be reviewed and shall be deemed non-responsive.**

All proposals submitted shall be valid and binding on the submitting firm for a period of ninety (90) days following the submittal deadline and for any extension of time granted by the submitting firm.

EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS

An evaluation team, using the point method of award, will review each proposal and evaluate all responses received based upon the criteria listed herein. NWSA may request clarifications or additional information, if needed. After the evaluation team individually scores each proposal, the scores are tallied and the firms are ranked based on the scores.

A selection may be made based on the proposals and initial evaluation criteria alone. Alternatively, the evaluation team may create a short list of the top ranked firms and invite the short-listed firms in for interview and/or check references. Scores for reference checks and interviews will be tallied and added to the short-listed firm's initial evaluation scores. Final selection will be based on the accumulative score.

NWSA intends to select the Proposer who represents the best value to NWSA.

NWSA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all information in its entirety or in part and to waive informalities and minor irregularities and to contract as the best interest of NWSA may require. NWSA reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals submitted as non-responsive or non-responsible.

Procedure When Only One Proposal is received

In the event that a single responsive proposal is received, the Proposer shall provide any additional data required by NWSA to analyze the proposal. NWSA reserves the right to reject such proposals for any reason.

GENERAL INFORMATION

News releases pertaining to this RFP, the services, or the project to which it relates, shall not be made without prior approval by, and then only in coordination with, NWSA.

COSTS BORNE BY PROPOSERS

All costs incurred in the preparation of a Proposal and participation in this RFP and negotiation process shall be borne by the proposing firms.

PROTEST PROCESS

A Bidder protesting for any reason the Bidding Documents, a Bidding procedure, NWSA's objection to a Bidder or a person or entity proposed by the Bidder, including but not limited to a finding of non-Responsibility, the Award of the Contract or any other aspect arising from or relating in any way to the Bidding shall cause a written protest to be filed with NWSA within two (2) business days of the event giving rise to the protest. (Intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays are not counted as business days.) The written protest shall include the name of the protesting Bidder, the bid solicitation number and title under which the protest is submitted, a detailed description of the specific factual and legal grounds for the protest, copies of all supporting documents, evidence that the apparent low bidder has been given notice of the protest, and the specific relief requested. The written protest shall be sent by email to NWSAprocurement@nwseaportalliance.com.

Consideration. Upon receipt of the written protest, NWSA will consider the protest. NWSA may, within three (3) business days of NWSA's receipt of the protest, provide any other affected Bidder(s) the opportunity to respond in writing to the protest. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement of the protesting Bidder and NWSA, the Contracts Director of NWSA or his or her designee will review the issues and promptly furnish a final and binding written decision to the protesting Bidder and any other affected Bidder(s) within six (6) business days of NWSA's receipt of the protest. (If more than one (1) protest is filed, NWSA's decision will be provided within six (6) business days of NWSA's receipt of the last protest.) If no reply is received from NWSA during the six (6) business-day period, the protest will be deemed rejected.

Waiver. Failure to comply with these protest procedures will render a protest waived.

Condition Precedent. Timely and proper compliance with and exhaustion of these protest procedures shall be a condition precedent to any otherwise permissible judicial consideration of a protest.

SMALL BUSINESS AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

NWSA encourages participation in all of its contracts by MWBE firms certified by the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE). Participation may be either on a direct basis in response to this solicitation/invitation or as a subcontractor to a Bidder/Proposer. However, unless required by federal statutes, regulations, grants, or contract terms referenced in the contract documents, no preference will be included in the evaluation of bids/submittals, no minimum level of MWBE participation shall be required as a condition for receiving an award and bids/submittals will not be rejected or considered non-responsive on that basis. Any affirmative action requirements set forth in federal regulations or statutes included or referenced in the contract documents will apply. The selected firm will be required to show evidence of outreach.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Proposals submitted under this Solicitation will be considered public documents and, with limited exceptions, will become public information and may be reviewed by appointment by RFP 07173 POT Strategic Plan Services

anyone requesting to do so following the conclusion of the evaluation, negotiation, and award process. This process is concluded when a signed contract is completed between NWSA and the selected Consultant.

If a firm considers any portion of its response to be protected under the law, the vendor shall clearly identify each such portion with words such as "CONFIDENTIAL," "PROPRIETARY" or "TRADE SECRET" on each page for which the protection is sought. If a request is made for disclosure of such portion, NWSA will notify the vendor of the request and allow the vendor not less than ten (10) days to seek a protective order from the Courts or other appropriate remedy and/or waive the claimed confidentiality. Unless such protective order is obtained and provided to NWSA by the stated deadline, NWSA will release the requested portions of the proposal. By submitting a response the vendor assents to the procedure outlined in this paragraph and shall have no claim against NWSA on account of actions taken under such procedure.