



File Code: 6300/5100

Date: January 6, 2010

Route To:

Subject: Preseason Incident Agreements (I-BPAs)

To: Regional Foresters

The National Solicitation Plan for Preseason Incident Agreements has been updated and can be found on the [Incident Procurement Web site](#). 2010 represents year four of a 5-year phase-in to introduce formal competition to preseason I-BPAs and establish consistent national standards.

The 2010 solicitation templates will be available in the Virtual Incident Procurement (VIPR) release 2.0 in early January; however, regions may issue the synopsis prior to that time. Regions will use the following two templates to re-compete equipment originally contained in a single solicitation in 2007: water handling equipment and heavy equipment with water.

Training requirements for the support water tender solicitation are fire refresher training with fire shelter training (RT 130). If an incident utilizes a support tender to fill other fire apparatus which may expose the operator to the uncontrolled/uncontained fire, then an appropriate escort should be provided. Tactical tenders are capable of working in the fire environment for both fire suppression activity and supporting the fire apparatus assigned to the fire. Changing the support water tender operator training requirements for two regions has been taken into consideration, but the deviation to require additional training was not granted. The role the support water tender plays on an incident will be reviewed nationally in order to determine if the minimum training requirements should be adjusted in the future.

A key change to the 2010 templates for all water handling equipment is in regard to inspections. Inspections are no longer a condition of award for I-BPAs. This decision was based on: 1) the vendor must provide equipment that meets specifications, 2) incident personnel have the responsibility to inspect equipment upon arrival, 3) Office of Inspector General questioned why the Forest Service is duplicating inspections (crew contract audit), 4) the cost to do both pre-award inspections and incident inspections, and 5) concern about jeopardizing procurement actions by failing to conduct 100% of pre-award inspections.

Contracting Officers (COs) shall make award based on the vendor self-certification that equipment submitted meets specifications and requirements per the solicitation. Regions do have the option to develop a pre-season inspection program. Describing how and when inspections will be done (e.g., sampling, 100%, random, etc.) will need to be included in the solicitation language. If a region chooses to inspect equipment preseason, the Dispatch Priority List should not be made available until all inspections are completed.

Two additional resource categories will be solicited on a national basis in 2010: refrigerated trailer and crew carrier bus (ref: [RF memo dated 10/26/2009](#)). Refrigerated trailers are being resolicited a year early with the expectation of obtaining more reasonable pricing absent the wide variances obtained in original solicitations.



The portable hand washing station and portable toilet template has been revised to describe basic requirements with options. If a region that uses this equipment did not solicit and award for it in 2009, they must solicit using the revised template for a 2-year period. Regions that did award I-BPAs in 2009 will modify existing agreements at time of the annual pricing review and “rollover.”

The Contracting Equipment Task Team (CETT) (Chartered by the Equipment Technology Committee, formerly FEWT) was tasked with developing specifications for use in solicitation templates. The CETT has produced a large volume of work with a high degree of dedication and energy. The role of the CETT will be fulfilled with final specification development of the Heavy Equipment template currently being piloted by R8. As such, the CETT will not be re-chartered, although, individuals may be requested to assist and provide input on a case-by-case basis.

For acquisition related questions, please contact Shane A LaValley at (406) 329-3680 or slavalley@fs.fed.us; for fire related questions please contact Tory Henderson at (208) 387-5348 or thenderson@fs.fed.us.

/s/ Ronald E. Hooper
RONALD E. HOOPER
Director, Acquisition Management

/s/ T.C. Harbour
TOM HARBOUR
Director, Fire and Aviation Management

cc: pdl wo ops aqm directors
pdl wo spf fam regional fire directors
Ronald Wester
Tory Henderson
Sarah R Fisher
pdl wo ops aqm vipr liaisons