



File Code: 6300/5100

Date: October 16, 2008

Route To:

Subject: Revised National Solicitation Plan for Competitive Preseason Incident Agreements and 2009 Solicitation Templates

To: Regional Foresters

The National Solicitation Plan for Competitive Preseason Incident BPA's has been updated to reflect information discovered in the 2008 fire season and to balance the workload in the outyears. Management from Acquisition and Fire Operations evaluated feedback received from ground personnel based on their experiences this past fire season in using solicitations completed in the spring of 2008. Key adjustments include resoliciting mobile laundry in 2009 and delaying national solicitation of heavy equipment until 2011. The plan is posted on the Incident Procurement website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/business/incident/compsolplan.php>.

The final 2009 solicitation templates are also available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/business/incident/solicitations.php>. Work on these templates began in January by the Contract Equipment Task Team, which is chartered by FEWT and has regional representatives from Fire Operations. Comments on draft templates were requested from vendors (via FedBizOpps), and other internal parties, such as AQM Fire contracting officers and Fire Logistics (ref: RF&D 6300/5100 memo dated April 29). Feedback has been incorporated into the final templates and approved by both F&AM and AQM.

Any deviations from these templates must also be approved by AQM and F&AM. If a region has a compelling reason to deviate they must provide justification to the national office that identifies the specific deviation requested, a description of the circumstances that necessitate deviation, and whether the scope is national or local. A standard format will be provided to personnel responsible for solicitations.

We are aware that partnerships exist with Department of the Interior (DOI) and state agencies to secure resources for fires/incidents in many regions. Equipment categories listed on Exhibit A of the National Solicitation Plan must be subject to competition. If the Forest Service is the contracting agency, the national template must be used through VIPR beginning in the year of initial solicitation. If a partner agency is the contracting agency for preseason agreements, they must still be competed in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations. Use of the template and equipment specifications is strongly encouraged, but is optional. Use of VIPR is not permitted by the DOI at this time. The VIPR can be further developed to accommodate interagency use, should DOI decide to participate. The enclosed document is provided as a guide to I-BPA requirements.



As with any new process, cooperation is key to its success. The development of standardized equipment specifications, methods of hire, and soliciting procedures have required some compromise that has allowed us to be successful, and also maintain relationships with our partners. We continue to count on your assistance and support in overcoming any obstacles that may stand in the way of accomplishing our goals and preserving relationships.

/s/ Ronald E. Hooper
RONALD E. HOOPER
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/s/ T.C. Harbour
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Director, Fire and Aviation Management

Enclosure

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