

# How to respond to an RFQ, RFP, & IFB

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US Army Corps of Engineers  
**BUILDING STRONG**

# Overview

- What – is an RFQ, an RFP and an IFB?
- How – can I differentiate between them?
- Why – do I need to differentiate?
- What and How – should I submit?
- When – should I submit?
- Who – should I submit to?
- Tips



# What is an RFQ, RFP, IFB

- Different, but all should contain...
- Instructions to Offerors
- Information required to be submitted by Offerors
- Evaluation factors and sub-factors (when applicable)
- Provisions and Clauses
- Tech Specs, Drawings, Scope of Work, etc.



# What is an RFQ

- Request for Quote
- Typically lower value and/or complexity
- Commercial or smaller construction jobs
- Evaluation criteria more simple
- Need for discussions or negotiations with offerors not anticipated
- Faster turnaround



# What is an RFP

- Request for Proposal
- Typically higher value and/or complexity
- Can be services, supplies, construction or A-E
- More detailed evaluation criteria
- Discussions or negotiation with offerors may be necessary
- Proposals are binding
- More lengthy process



# What is an IFB

- **Invitation for Bid**
- The solicitation document used in Sealed Bidding procurement
- Procedure is generally for Construction but may be used for Service or Supply
- Used for firm fixed-price



# How to differentiate

- Different forms (Word Doc, SF 1449, SF 1442, DD 1155, SF 33)
- Different # (Q, R, B)
  - ▶ In the block containing the Solicitation number, for example W912EF-13-**B**-0033 = Invitation for Bid



**SOLICITATION/CONTRACT/ORDER FOR COMMERCIAL ITEMS**  
**OFFEROR TO COMPLETE BLOCKS 12, 17, 23, 24, & 30**

1. REQUISITION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE 1 OF \_\_\_\_\_

2. CONTRACT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. AWARD EFFECTIVE DATE \_\_\_\_\_ 4. ORDER NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ 5. SOLICITATION NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ 6. SOLICITATION ISSUE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

7. FOR SOLICITATION INFORMATION CALL: **a.** NAME \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** TELEPHONE NUMBER (No collect calls) \_\_\_\_\_ 8. OFFER DUE DATE/ LOCAL TIME \_\_\_\_\_

9. ISSUED BY \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_ 10. THIS ACQUISITION IS  
 UNRESTRICTED OR  SET ASIDE:  SMALL BUSINESS  EMERGING SMALL BUSINESS  
 HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS  SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS  8(A)  
 NAICS: \_\_\_\_\_ SIZE STANDARD: \_\_\_\_\_

11. DELIVERY FOR FOB DESTINATION UNLESS BLOCK IS MARKED  SEE SCHEDULE \_\_\_\_\_ 12. DISCOUNT TERMS \_\_\_\_\_ 13a. THIS CONTRACT IS A RATED ORDER UNDER DPAS (15 CFR 700)  13b. RATING \_\_\_\_\_

14. METHOD OF SOLICITATION  RFQ  IFB  RFP

15. DELIVER TO \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_ 16. ADMINISTERED BY \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_

17a. CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR CODE \_\_\_\_\_ FACILITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_ 18a. PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

17b. CHECK IF REMITTANCE IS DIFFERENT AND PUT SUCH ADDRESS IN OFFER \_\_\_\_\_ 18b. SUBMIT INVOICES TO ADDRESS SHOWN IN BLOCK 18a UNLESS BLOCK BELOW IS CHECKED  SEE ADDENDUM \_\_\_\_\_

19. ITEM NO.	20. SCHEDULE OF SUPPLIES/SERVICES	21. QUANTITY	22. UNIT	23. UNIT PRICE	24. AMOUNT
<i>Use Reverse and/or Attach Additional Sheets as Necessary</i>					

25. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA \_\_\_\_\_ 26. TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT (For Govt. Use Only) \_\_\_\_\_

27a. SOLICITATION INCORPORATES BY REFERENCE FAR 52.212-1, 52.212-4, FAR 52.212-3 AND 52.212-5 ARE ATTACHED. ADDENDA  ARE  ARE NOT ATTACHED  
 27b. CONTRACT/PURCHASE ORDER INCORPORATES BY REFERENCE FAR 52.212-4, FAR 52.212-5 IS ATTACHED. ADDENDA  ARE  ARE NOT ATTACHED

28. CONTRACTOR IS REQUIRED TO SIGN THIS DOCUMENT AND RETURN COPIES TO ISSUING OFFICE. CONTRACTOR AGREES TO FURNISH AND DELIVER ALL ITEMS SET FORTH OR OTHERWISE IDENTIFIED ABOVE AND ON ANY ADDITIONAL SHEETS SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SPECIFIED

29. AWARD OF CONTRACT: REF. \_\_\_\_\_ OFFER DATED \_\_\_\_\_, YOUR OFFER ON SOLICITATION (BLOCK 5), INCLUDING ANY ADDITIONS OR CHANGES WHICH ARE SET FORTH HEREIN, IS ACCEPTED AS TO ITEMS:

30a. SIGNATURE OF OFFEROR/CONTRACTOR \_\_\_\_\_ 31a. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (SIGNATURE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER) \_\_\_\_\_

30b. NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER (Type or print) \_\_\_\_\_ 30c. DATE SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ 31b. NAME OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or print) \_\_\_\_\_ 31c. DATE SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

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STANDARD FORM 1449 (REV. 3/2005)  
 Prescribed by GSA - FAR (48 CFR) 53.212

19. ITEM NO.	20. SCHEDULE OF SUPPLIES/SERVICES	21. QUANTITY	22. UNIT	23. UNIT PRICE	24. AMOUNT
32a. QUANTITY IN COLUMN 21 HAS BEEN <input type="checkbox"/> RECEIVED <input type="checkbox"/> INSPECTED <input type="checkbox"/> ACCEPTED, AND CONFORMS TO THE CONTRACT, EXCEPT AS NOTED: _____					
32b. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE		32c. DATE	32d. PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE		
32e. MAILING ADDRESS OF AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE			32f. TELEPHONE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE		
			32g. E-MAIL OF AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE		
33. SHIP NUMBER	34. VOUCHER NUMBER	35. AMOUNT VERIFIED CORRECT FOR	36. PAYMENT <input type="checkbox"/> COMPLETE <input type="checkbox"/> PARTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL	37. CHECK NUMBER	
<input type="checkbox"/> PARTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL	38. S/R ACCOUNT NO.	39. S/R VOUCHER NUMBER	40. PAID BY		
41a. I CERTIFY THIS ACCOUNT IS CORRECT AND PROPER FOR PAYMENT		41b. SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF CERTIFYING OFFICER		41c. DATE	42a. RECEIVED BY (Print)
					42b. RECEIVED AT (Location)
				42c. DATE REC'D (YY/MM/DD)	42d. TOTAL CONTAINERS

STANDARD FORM 1449 (REV. 3/2005) BACK



# SF 1449



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# SF 1442

<b>SOLICITATION, OFFER, AND AWARD</b> <i>(Construction, Alteration, or Repair)</i>				
1. SOLICITATION NO.	2. TYPE OF SOLICITATION <input type="checkbox"/> SEALED BID (IFB) <input type="checkbox"/> NEGOTIATED (RFP)	3. DATE ISSUED	PAGE OF PAGES	
<b>IMPORTANT</b> - The "offer" section on the reverse must be fully completed by offeror.				
4. CONTRACT NO.	5. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQUEST NO.	6. PROJECT NO.		
7. ISSUED BY	CODE	8. ADDRESS OFFER TO		
9. FOR INFORMATION CALL:	a. NAME	b. TELEPHONE NO. (Include area code) (NO COLLECT CALLS)		
<b>SOLICITATION</b>				
NOTE: In sealed bid solicitations "offer" and "offeror" mean "bid" and "bidder".				
10. THE GOVERNMENT REQUIRES PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK DESCRIBED IN THESE DOCUMENTS (Title, identifying no., date)				

11. The contractor shall begin performance \_\_\_\_\_ calendar days and complete it within \_\_\_\_\_ calendar days after receiving  
 award,  notice to proceed. This performance period is  mandatory  negotiable. (See \_\_\_\_\_).

12a. THE CONTRACTOR MUST FURNISH ANY REQUIRED PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS?  
(If "YES", indicate within how many calendar days after award in item 12b.)  
 YES  NO

12b. CALENDAR DAYS

13. ADDITIONAL SOLICITATION REQUIREMENTS:

a. Sealed offers in original and \_\_\_\_\_ copies to perform the work required are due at the place specified in item 8 by \_\_\_\_\_ (hour) local time \_\_\_\_\_ (date). If this is a sealed bid solicitation, offers will be publicly opened at that time. Sealed envelopes containing offers shall be marked to show the offeror's name and address, the solicitation number, and the date and time offers are due.

b. An offer guarantee  is,  is not required.

c. All offers are subject to the (1) work requirements, and (2) other provisions and clauses incorporated in the solicitation in full text or by reference.

d. Offers providing less than \_\_\_\_\_ calendar days for Government acceptance after the date offers are due will not be considered and will be rejected.

NSN 7540-01-155-3212

STANDARD FORM 1442 (REV. 4-85)  
Prescribed by GSA - FAR (48 CFR) 53.236-1(d)

<b>OFFER (Must be fully completed by offeror)</b>			
14. NAME AND ADDRESS OF OFFEROR (Include ZIP Code)		15. TELEPHONE NO. (Include area code)	
16. REMITTANCE ADDRESS (Include only if different than item 14.)			
CODE		FACILITY CODE	
17. The offeror agrees to perform the work required at the prices specified below in strict accordance with the terms of this solicitation, if this offer is accepted by the Government in writing within _____ calendar days after the date offers are due. (Insert any number equal to or greater than the minimum requirement stated in item 13d. Failure to insert any number means the offeror accepts the minimum in item 13d.)			
AMOUNTS			
18. The offeror agrees to furnish any required performance and payment bonds.			
19. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AMENDMENTS (The offeror acknowledges receipt of amendments to the solicitation -- give number and date of each)			
AMENDMENT NO.			
DATE			
20a. NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN OFFER (Type or print)	20b. SIGNATURE	20c. OFFER DATE	
<b>AWARD (To be completed by Government)</b>			
21. ITEMS ACCEPTED:			
22. AMOUNT		23. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA	
24. SUBMIT INVOICES TO ADDRESS SHOWN IN _____ ITEM (4 copies unless otherwise specified)		25. OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION PURSUANT TO <input type="checkbox"/> 10 U.S.C. 2304(c) ( ) <input type="checkbox"/> 41 U.S.C. 253(c) ( )	
28. ADMINISTERED BY		27. PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY	
<b>CONTRACTING OFFICER WILL COMPLETE ITEM 28 OR 29 AS APPLICABLE</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> 28. NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT (Contractor is required to sign this document and return _____ copies to issuing office.) Contractor agrees to furnish and deliver all items or perform all work requirements identified on this form and any continuation sheets for the consideration stated in this contract. The rights and obligations of the parties to this contract shall be governed by (a) this contract award, (b) the solicitation, and (c) the clauses, representations, certifications, and specifications incorporated by reference in or attached to this contract.		<input type="checkbox"/> 29. AWARD (Contractor is not required to sign this document.) Your offer on this solicitation is hereby accepted as to the items listed. This award consummates the contract, which consists of (a) the Government solicitation and your offer, and (b) this contract award. No further contractual document is necessary.	
30a. NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTOR OR PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Type or print)		31a. NAME OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or print)	
30b. SIGNATURE		30c. DATE	31b. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
			31c. DATE
		BY	

STANDARD FORM 1442 (REV. 4-85) BACK



# SF 33

<b>SOLICITATION, OFFER AND AWARD</b>		1. THIS CONTRACT IS A RATED ORDER UNDER DPAS (15 CFR 7900)		RATING	PAGE	OF	PAGES
2. CONTRACT NUMBER	3. SOLICITATION NUMBER	4. TYPE OF SOLICITATION <input type="checkbox"/> SEALED BID (IF <input type="checkbox"/> NEGOTIATED (RFP))		5. DATE ISSUED	6. REQUISITION/PURCHASE NUMBER		
7. ISSUED BY		CODE	8. ADDRESS OFFER TO (If other than item 7)				

NOTE: In sealed bid solicitations "offer" and "offeror" mean "bid" and "bidder".

**SOLICITATION**

9. Sealed offers in original and \_\_\_\_\_ copies for furnishings the supplies or services in the Schedule will be received at the place specified in item 8, or if hand carried, in the depository located in \_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_ local time \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Hour)

CAUTION - LATE Submissions, Modifications, and Withdrawals: See Section L, Provision No. 52.214-7 or 52.215-1. All offers are subject to all terms and conditions contained in this solicitation.

10. FOR INFORMATION CALL:	A. NAME	B. TELEPHONE (NO COLLECT CALLS)		C. E-MAIL ADDRESS	
		AREA CODE	NUMBER	EXT.	

**11. TABLE OF CONTENTS**

(X)	SEC.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE(S)	(X)	SEC.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE(S)
PART I - THE SCHEDULE				PART II - CONTRACT CLAUSES			
	A	SOLICITATION/CONTRACT FORM			I	CONTRACT CLAUSES	
	B	SUPPLIES OR SERVICES AND PRICES/COSTS			PART III - LIST OF DOCUMENTS, EXHIBITS AND OTHER ATTACH.		
	C	DESCRIPTION/SPECS./WORK STATEMENT			J	LIST OF ATTACHMENTS	
	D	PACKAGING AND MARKING			PART IV - REPRESENTATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS		
	E	INSPECTION AND ACCEPTANCE			K	REPRESENTATIONS, CERTIFICATIONS AND OTHER STATEMENTS OF OFFERORS	
	F	DELIVERIES OR PERFORMANCE			L	INSTRS., CONDS., AND NOTICES TO OFFERORS	
	G	CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION DATA			M	EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD	
	H	SPECIAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS					

**OFFER (Must be fully completed by offeror)**

NOTE: Item 12 does not apply if the solicitation includes the provisions at 52.214-16, Minimum Bid Acceptance Period.

12. In compliance with the above, the undersigned agrees, if this offer is accepted within \_\_\_\_\_ calendar days (60 calendar days unless a different period is inserted by the offeror) from the date for receipt of offers specified above, to furnish any or all items upon which prices are offered at the set opposite each item, delivered at the designated point(s), within the time specified in the schedule.

13. DISCOUNT FOR PROMPT PAYMENT (See Section I, Clause No. 52.232-8)	10 CALENDAR DAYS (%)	20 CALENDAR DAYS (%)	30 CALENDAR DAYS (%)	CALENDAR DAYS (%)
14. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AMENDMENTS (The offeror acknowledges receipt of amendments to the SOLICITATION for offerors and related documents numbered and dated):	AMENDMENT NO.	DATE	AMENDMENT NO.	DATE

15A. NAME AND ADDRESS OF OFFEROR	CODE	FACILITY	16. NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN OFFER (Type or print)	
15B. TELEPHONE NUMBER		<input type="checkbox"/> 15C. CHECK IF REMITTANCE ADDRESS IS DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE - ENTER SUCH ADDRESS IN SCHEDULE.	17. SIGNATURE	18. OFFER DATE
AREA CODE	NUMBER EXT.			

**AWARD (To be completed by Government)**

19. ACCEPTED AS TO ITEMS	20. AMOUNT	21. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION	
22. AUTHORITY FOR USING OTHER THAN FULL OPEN COMPETITION: <input type="checkbox"/> 10 U.S.C. 2304 (c) <input type="checkbox"/> 41 U.S.C. 253 (c)		23. SUBMIT INVOICES TO ADDRESS SHOWN IN (4 copies unless otherwise specified)	ITEM
24. ADMINISTERED BY (if other than item 7)		25. PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY	CODE
26. NAME OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or print)		27. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	28. AWARD DATE

(Signature of Contracting Officer)

IMPORTANT - Award will be made on this Form, or on Standard Form 26, or by other authorized official written notice.  
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STANDARD FORM 33 (REV. 9-97)  
 Prescribed by GSA - Far (48 CFR) 53.214 (c)



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# Why should I differentiate?

- Makes easier for you to decide which jobs to focus on.
  - ▶ It's an investment of your time, so choose wisely
  - ▶ Mistaking the procedures for submission could cause your package to be dismissed as nonresponsive
    - RFQ = e-mail usually okay
    - IFB = hand deliver or mail only
    - RFP = it depends



# What should I submit?

- General
  - ▶ All should have instructions for offerors or information for offerors
  - ▶ Most have evaluation criteria
  - ▶ Be sure to submit everything required by instructions and evaluation criteria



# What should I submit?

- RFQ
  - ▶ Sometimes word doc
  - ▶ Sometimes SF 1449 or DD 1155
  - ▶ Typically fill in the blanks with company info, price, etc.
  - ▶ Sign SF 1449 or DD 1155 – unless the form is signed or work commences, it is not a binding contract



# What should I submit?

- RFP
  - ▶ SF 1442 (Construction)
  - ▶ or SF 1449 (Commercial Item/Service)
  - ▶ or word document (A-E Task Order or Design Build)
  - ▶ Read the instructions to offerors
  - ▶ Read the evaluation criteria
  - ▶ Submit (all the information requested – ensure its accuracy)



# What should I submit?

- IFB

- ▶ Signed form (back page) with completed bid schedule
- ▶ Acknowledgement of all amendments
- ▶ Bid Bond (construction, when required)
- ▶ Representations & Certifications
- ▶ Insure all *changes* to prices are legible and initialed by an officer of the firm



# How should I submit?

- RFQ
  - ▶ See instructions for offerors
  - ▶ Typically by e-mail by sometimes hard copy
  - ▶ Separate price and technical proposals may be required



# How should I submit?

- RFP

- ▶ See instructions for offerors
- ▶ Typically by e-mail, but sometimes hard copy
- ▶ Multiple copies may be required
- ▶ Separate price and technical proposals generally required (technical evaluation team is not allowed to see pricing until after they have evaluated technical proposals)



# How should I submit?

- IFB

- ▶ Snail mail or hand deliver
- ▶ Sealed envelope
- ▶ Marked with offerors name and address, solicitation # and the date and time offers are due
- ▶ Timely! (submitted so that it is received by the designated office no later than the exact time set for opening of bids)



# When should I submit?

- See **page 1, box 8** on SF 1449
- See **page 1, box 9** on SF 33
- See **page 1, block 13** on SF 1442
- Good idea to e-mail at least one day before closing (e-mail not generally allowed for Construction)
- Good idea to request confirmation that your message with xxx # of attachments and xxx # of pages was received



# Tips to Offerors: The Basics

- Note the due date and time -- set a calendar reminder so you don't miss the deadline
- Reach out to subs early if you think you will need them -- they need time to prepare just like you
- Offerors who don't follow instructions or submit incomplete packages can be eliminated from competition as non-responsive



# Tips to Offerors: choosing projects to include in your quote / proposal

- Read the Project Description and Evaluation Criteria – select projects based on similar attributes
- Provide experience that demonstrates abilities that meet the requirements in size, scope and complexity
- Projects that demonstrate teaming relationships with your proposed team



# Tips to Offerors:

## Describing project experience

- Identify Key personnel who worked on the previous project – are they on the proposed team?
- Don't overstate your involvement in the project – were you the prime or a sub?
- Provide information in concise statements
- Provide all information required – excessive information beyond the requirements does not add value



# Tips to Offerors: Resumes

- Would you hire the person based on this resume?
- Address the requirements in solicitation (tailor the resume)
- State the level of experience with corresponding dates to show the person meets requirements
- Cross reference to project experience sheets



# Tips to Offerors:

## Put your best foot forward

- Your proposal / quote is an example of your work / your company
  - ▶ Edit for typos and grammatical errors
  - ▶ Do tables / charts convey the message you are trying to send?
  - ▶ Check your firm's name throughout the document – is it consistent?
  - ▶ Check the project title, especially when template from a another proposal
  - ▶ Answer all stated requirements in the solicitation



# Tips to Offerors:

## Independent review of proposal

- Have someone outside of the proposal team review your documents
- Make a point-by-point comparison between your proposal and the requirements of the solicitation
  - ▶ Does your proposal address every point?
  - ▶ Check experience and training requirements for all resumes



# Questions?



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