
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

1. INTRODUCTION

Date: September 6, 2024

RFP No.: WS1068815281

RFP Description: New Frontiers

RFP Closing Date and Time: October 21, 2024, at 5:00 PM Eastern Time

Offeror Name:

Offeror Address:

Attention POC:

Cc:

Subject: RFP for the ORNL ---- National Center for Computational Sciences

In Response Refer to: RFP No. WS1068815281– New Frontiers

ORNL Procurement Officer: Jason Holder

Phone: (865)341-3684

Email: holderje@ornl.gov

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) is the largest US Department of Energy (DOE) science and energy laboratory, conducting basic and applied research to deliver transformative solutions to compelling problems in energy and security. ORNL is managed and operated by UT-Battelle, LLC (UT-B). ORNL's diverse capabilities span a broad range of scientific and engineering disciplines, enabling the Laboratory to explore fundamental science challenges and to carry out the research needed to accelerate the delivery of solutions to the marketplace.

This document contains the request for proposals for the New Frontiers industry research program to enable the next generation of exascale supercomputers in the 2027 and beyond time frame. This RFP is being led by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility (OLCF). This research is required to enable the fulfillment of the mission needs of the Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) Program within the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science (SC). ORNL is managed by UT-Battelle, LLC, referred to in this document as "Buyer" or "Company" and is pleased to invite your firm, herein referred to as "Offeror," to submit a proposal in support of the subject effort, as outlined in the attached Statement of Work or Specification and/or Technical Direction attached.

Buyer reserves the right to update this RFP by amendment prior to date of award.

The Offeror's proposal shall be prepared in accordance with the information provided in this RFP. Specific responses to the Buyer's requirements are necessary to enable the Buyer to evaluate Offeror's understanding of, and capability to accomplish the stated objectives. Throughout the proposal, the Offeror shall provide sufficient detail to substantiate the validity of all stated claims, comments, or positions. All proposed concepts must be shown to be technically feasible and achievable within the allotted time limitations, and all performance and schedule requirements must be shown to be realistic. The response shall correspond to the requirements of this RFP, unless otherwise specified in writing by the Buyer.

2. RFP INFORMATION

Solicitation Number:	WS1068815281
Offers Due By:	October 21, 2024 at 5:00 PM Eastern Time
Offer Validity Period:	120 days
NAICS Code:	541512 – Computer System Design Services
Subcontract Type Anticipated:	Fixed Price
Small Business Set-Aside:	No
Description of Supplies/Services Sought:	R&D proposals in the advancement of extreme scale HPC systems
Anticipated Subcontract Period of Performance:	TBD
ORNL Procurement Representative:	Jason Holder – holderje@ornl.gov

3. LIST OF RFP ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No.	Description	Document Title (Date/Revision)
Attachment A	ORNL Terms and Conditions	Fixed Price - BSD-CS-2150 (August 29, 2023)
Attachment B	Prime Contract T&C Flow Downs	UT-Battelle Prime Supplemental Flowdown Document [Additional Terms and Conditions for Subcontracts/Purchase Orders under Prime Contract No. DE-AC05-00OR22725] (BSD-CS-2258)
Attachment C	RFP Technical Requirements	New Frontiers Request for Proposal (dated October 2023)
Attachment D	Representations and Certifications	Representations & Certifications – Abbreviated (BSD-CS-2260, dated 11/15/2023)
Attachment E	Draft Subcontract	

4. STATEMENT OF WORK/SPECIFICATIONS

For detailed Statement of Work refer to the attached New Frontiers Technical Requirements document dated October 2023.

5. PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Preparation of Offers. (a) Offerors are expected to examine the drawings, specifications, descriptions, terms and conditions, and all instructions. Failure to do so will be at the Offeror's risk. (b) Each Offeror shall furnish the information required by the solicitation. The Offeror shall sign the offer. Erasures or other changes must be initialed by the person signing the offer. A total price shall be entered for each item proposed (c) Offers in strict accordance with the solicitation are desired. Any exceptions should be referenced to related documents by title, page, and paragraph, and should be set forth in detail. (d) This request does not commit ORNL to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an offer or for any other costs incurred prior to the execution of an Agreement.

Explanation to Prospective Offerors. Any explanation desired by a prospective Offeror regarding the meaning or interpretation of the solicitation, drawings, specification, etc., must be requested with sufficient time allowed for a reply to reach all prospective Offerors before submission of their offers. Any information given to a prospective Offeror

will be furnished to all prospective Offerors if such information is necessary in submitting offers or if the lack of such information would be prejudicial to any other prospective Offerors.

Proposal Format. Offeror is requested to submit their proposal in MS Excel, MS Word, or PDF formats. Proposals must be submitted on the forms furnished by the Buyer. If no form is provided, Offeror may submit their proposal in a format of their choosing.

Contractual / Administrative Authority. No direction to proceed or other instruction to begin work shall be binding upon Buyer except when specifically issued and confirmed in writing by an authorized member of Buyer's Procurement organization. Offeror's acceptance of, or reliance upon any direction to proceed or other instruction by Buyer's technical personnel, or other representatives not specifically authorized to issue formal purchase order commitments, shall be at Offeror's own risk and shall not constitute a binding purchase commitment upon Buyer.

Acknowledgement of Amendments. Receipt of an amendment to a solicitation should be acknowledged in writing.

Proposal Contact. Any questions regarding any portion of this RFP must be coordinated through the Buyer's Procurement organization, identified as Buyer's Contact in the Introduction. No written or verbal correspondence will be permitted with any other member of the ORNL team without coordination through the Buyer's Procurement organization. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the Offeror's disqualification from consideration for award. The Buyer is open to proposal clarification questions/discussions in regard to this RFP via the email address or telephone number provided in the Introduction.

Omissions. It shall be clearly understood that, notwithstanding the detailed requirements contained herein, it is the Offeror's responsibility to identify and quote any aspect or area which may have been omitted in this RFP and which will nevertheless be necessary to meet the general requirements of the defined effort.

Offeror's Challenge. In the interest of cost effectiveness, the Offeror is encouraged to challenge specifications and other requirements that, in its judgment, provide little value in consideration of cost. Further, the Offeror is invited to suggest practical performance incentives that may be introduced to the advantage of both Offeror and Buyer.

Proposal Acceptance. Buyer reserves the right to (a) consider proposals or modifications to proposals received after the due date should such action be determined to be in the best interest of Buyer or its customer, and/or (b) make award without written or oral discussion.

Affordability. This effort is in support of the U.S. Government, who has a vital mission and constrained resources, and it is incumbent upon industry to provide our customer with high quality and affordable solutions. ORNL considers this challenge to be a major discriminator in our ability to win and retain business based upon proven performance and demonstrated value to our customers. ORNL has developed a number of initiatives to drive value for our customer and we expect our partners in our supply chain to do the same. It is requested as part of your proposal in response to this RFP that you articulate and demonstrate specifics in your offer that are affordable and meet or exceed all technical and schedule requirements. Your response to these criteria will be an element of the ORNL proposal evaluation and award decision process.

Order of Precedence. Any inconsistencies between sections of this RFP shall be resolved in accordance with the following descending order of precedence: (1) This RFP; (2) UT-B Prime Flow Downs; (3) ORNL Terms and Conditions; (4) Special Provisions listed within this RFP; (5) Statement of Work/Technical Requirements.

Payment. Payment shall be made by electronic funds transfer. The form for enrolling is available at <http://web.ornl/adm/contracts/eft.shtml>.

Rights to Technical Data in Successful Proposals. Should an Agreement be awarded based on a proposal, it is policy, in consideration of the award, to obtain unlimited rights for the Government in technical data (but not commercial or financial information) contained in a successful proposal upon which award of an Agreement is based. To exclude technical data contained in a proposal from the Government's rights, the offer must:

- (1) Advise the Buyer that the technical data, or portions thereof that are identified by the Offeror, are covered by the restrictive notice regarding the disclosure and use of proposal information in accordance with the provision of this RFP entitled Treatment of Offer Information and request that such protection be maintained by excluding the data from the Government's rights; or
- (2) Establish to the Buyer's satisfaction that identified portions of the technical data do not relate directly to or will not be utilized in the work to be performed under the Agreement, and request that such portions be excluded from the Government's rights.

If unlimited rights to technical data in successful proposals, as set forth in the first paragraph of this section are to be acquired, it shall be by use of the clause below titled, "Rights to Proposal Data (Technical)." Any excluded technical data will be identified by inserting appropriate proposal page numbers in the clause, which clause enables the identification of data to be excluded from the Government's rights, as discussed in the first paragraph of this section. Such exclusion is not dispositive of the protective status of the data, but any excluded technical data, as well as any commercial and financial information contained in the proposal, will be used for evaluation purposes only. If there is a need to have access to any of the excluded technical data during contract performance, their acquisition will be as limited rights data, if they so qualify, in accordance with FAR 27.404(d).

Rights to Proposal Data (Technical)

Except for data contained on pages _____, it is agreed that as a condition of the award of this subcontract and notwithstanding the conditions of any notice appearing thereon, the Government shall have unlimited rights (as defined in the "Rights in Data – General" clause contained in this subcontract in and to the technical data contained in the proposal dated, _____, upon which this subcontract is based.

Treatment of Offer Information. Offerors that include in their proposals information that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose, or used by the Company or the Government except for evaluation purposes, shall:

(a) Mark the title page with the following legend:

This proposal includes information that shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed—in whole or in part—for any purpose other than to evaluate this proposal. If, however, an Agreement is awarded to this Offeror as a result of—or in connection with—the submission of this information, the Company and the Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the information to the extent provided in the resulting Agreement. This restriction does not limit the Company's and the Government's right to use information contained in this information if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The information subject to this restriction are contained in pages [insert numbers or other identification of pages]; and

(b) Mark each page of information it wishes to restrict with the following legend:

Use or disclosure of information contained on this page is subject to the restriction on the title page of this proposal.

Offeror's Firm Profile. Provide an Offeror's Firm Profile to include business classification (e.g. Large, Small, Disadvantaged).

Signing Authority. Signature of official authorized to contractually commit the Offeror; the names, positions, email address, and phone numbers of persons authorized to negotiate this proposal or persons to be contacted for clarification or questions.

Proposal Validity. Statement that identifies proposal validity. Unless otherwise stated in the Offeror's proposal, the Offeror's proposal shall be **valid for 120 calendar days**.

FOB and Shipping Terms. RESERVED

Offeror Business Information. Complete business address of the Offeror, the corporate name to be used on any resultant contract, and the remittance address if different from that above. Identify "parent company" or "sponsoring corporation" name, also provide such identity as appropriate.

Subcontract Type. The proposed subcontract type, if other than the anticipated subcontract type located in Attachment A: ORNL Terms and Conditions.

Options. RESERVED

6. COMPETITION

This RFP is being issued on a competitive basis. The Buyer reserves its rights to: 1) make selections on the basis of initial proposals; 2) negotiate with any or all Offerors for any reason; and 3) award subcontract(s) based on a single proposal that addresses more than one area of technology.

Response Due Date. Your response to this request is due on or before 5:00 PM Eastern Time Zone on October 21, 2024. All proposal documents shall be sent to the attention of **Jason Holder** via email at **holderje@ornl.com**.

Pre-Proposal Conference. RESERVED

Oral Presentations. RESERVED

Access to ORNL Site. Vendor personnel may come onto the ORNL site only if they have a current ORNL badge or a visitor's pass. Persons who need visitors' passes to deliver offers or participate in site visits must provide their e-mail address to the Procurement Officer on a workday at least 24 hours in advance. The Site Administrator will send a link to a secure portal (via-email) where vendor personnel provide the following information: (i) Full name, (ii) employer, (iii) social security number, (iv) date of birth, (v) gender and (vi) country of citizenship. Visitors' passes must be picked up at the Visitor Center, Building 5200. Photo identification is required.

Questions. Questions concerning this RFP must be submitted in writing, via email, to the ORNL Procurement Officer listed in section 2 of this RFP. Information given to one prospective offeror will be furnished to all prospective offerors if lack of the information would be prejudicial to them.

Withdrawal of Offers. Offers may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before award.

Proposal Package. A complete proposal package consists of the following elements:

- ✓ Technical Proposal
- ✓ Price Proposal
- ✓ Exceptions/Non-Compliance
- ✓ Conditions of Proposal / Assumptions

✓ Supplementary Requirements

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

The Technical Proposal shall not exceed 50 pages (excluding personnel resumes).

The technical proposal should be specific, detailed, and complete to demonstrate clearly and fully that the Offeror has a thorough understanding of the Buyer's requirements. The technical proposal must enable the technical evaluators to make a thorough analysis and arrive at a sound determination as to whether or not the proposal meets the Buyer's requirements. The proposal shall include descriptions sufficient to describe the Offeror's technical approach. The technical proposal must be sufficient to show how the Offeror proposes to comply with the Buyer's requirements and it must include a full explanation of the methods proposed. The Offeror shall include a glossary of acronyms and special terminology.

No certified cost or pricing information shall be included in the technical proposal.

Mandatory Requirements

The following items are mandatory for all proposals. That is, they must be present in any proposal for that proposal to be considered responsive and eligible for further evaluation.

Solution Description. Offeror shall describe the proposed R&D, with emphasis on how it will provide improvement in the targeted R&D area. Offerors shall discuss the innovative nature of the proposed R&D. Work that funds a company's current roadmap is not desired. Technology acceleration is acceptable if there is a clear benefit, and it is part of a broader strategy. The primary intent is to fund long-lead-time R&D objectives where significant advances can be made during the term of this program.

Research and Development Plan. Offeror shall provide a plan for conducting the proposed R&D, including timelines, milestones, and proposed deliverables. Deliverables shall be meaningful and measurable. Pricing shall be assigned to each milestone and deliverable. A schedule for periodic technical review by the DOE laboratories shall also be provided.

Some projects may develop a hardware prototype that demonstrates the value of the proposed concept. Others may perform a simulation or analysis that assesses the impact (or feasibility) of a proposed development. If funding provided through this RFP is insufficient to effectively demonstrate a concept or produce a prototype, Offerors shall provide a separate, non-binding budgetary estimate for follow-on work that would be needed to achieve this result. Do NOT include the estimated amount for this activity in the price for the R&D being proposed in response to this RFP. This follow-on work could be proposed in response to a future RFP, if one is issued.

We recognize that innovation involves risk. Proposals shall discuss technical and programmatic risk factors and the strategy to manage and to mitigate risk. If the planned R&D is not achieving the expected results, what alternatives will be considered? The amount of risk must be commensurate with the potential impact. Higher risk projects may be acceptable if the impact of the project is also high.

Staffing/Partnering Plan. Offerors shall describe staffing categories and levels for the proposed R&D activities. Any collaboration with other industry partners and/or universities shall be identified.

Project Management Methodology. Offerors shall provide a project management plan. The COMPANY expects quarterly milestone status updates on selected work packages.

Intellectual Property Plan. Proposals shall include a plan for how each intellectual property (IP) item from each portion of the proposed R&D work will be handled, including requested IP ownership and licensing. Traditionally, Government retains all rights unless collaborating vendors contributed 40% of the total to the work project.

Productization Strategy. Offeror shall describe how the proposed technology will be commercialized, productized, or otherwise made available to customers. Offerors shall include identification of target customer base/market(s) for the technology. Offerors shall describe impact specifically on the HPC market as well as the potential for broad adoption. Solutions that have the potential for broader adoption beyond HPC are highly desired. Offerors shall indicate projected timeline for productization.

Target Requirements

Productization Strategy. Offeror shall describe how the proposed technology will be commercialized, productized, or otherwise made available to customers. Offerors shall include identification of target customer base/market(s) for the technology. Offerors shall describe impact specifically on the HPC market as well as the potential for broad adoption. Solutions that have the potential for broader adoption beyond HPC are highly desired. Offerors shall indicate projected timeline for productization.

COST / INVESTMENT PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

All proposals shall be submitted in U.S. Dollars (USD). Offeror may submit their pricing information in their own format.

This proposal may be subject to a Government price audit.

The cost breakdowns shall identify the following information: how funds will be utilized throughout the research and development process, as well as Offerors perceived business case for the return on investment of the proposed technology step change.

Your proposal should include a breakdown of the proposed price, including the following items as applicable.

Labor. All direct labor by labor category, hours, and fully burdened labor rates. Identify each subcontractor labor category and include a brief job description and minimum education and experience requirements for each subcontractor labor category proposed. If the period of performance is for more than one year, show the information for each year proposed. Please identify all Key Personnel proposed.

Subcontractors. Include all subcontractor proposals. All subcontracted labor must identify labor category, hours, and fully burdened rates. Identify each subcontractor labor category and include a brief job description and minimum education and experience for each subcontractor labor category proposed. If lower tier subcontractor will travel, furnish equipment, materials, supplies, etc. additional quotations are required.

Travel. Include details on number of trips, purpose of trips, number of travelers, origin and destination of traveler, number of days of travel, airfare costs, lodging costs, meals and incidental costs, automobile rental costs, parking expenses, and/or POV mileage and applicable rates. All travel costs are to be in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation FAR 31.205-46 as cited under US Government Joint Travel Regulation (JTR) guidelines. Travel costs will not be fee-bearing and may include G&A only.

Materials and Equipment. Include a breakdown of each item along with supporting documentation for prices proposed; e.g., quotes from suppliers and/or catalog cut sheets with pertinent pricing.

Other Direct Costs. The Offeror shall submit complete details of how "other direct costs" (ODCs) were derived.

Fee or Profit. The Offeror shall submit a presentation of the details of its proposed profit/fee in the weighted guidelines format as described in DFAR 215.404-71, or use a similar structured approach.

Milestone Payment Plan. The Buyer may consider a proposed payment plan with the Offeror's response. Proposed payments must demonstrate significant progress against the schedule incorporated into the subcontract.

Government Approved Rates. If any of the proposed rates and factors have been accepted or approved by a government agency, the Offeror shall so state and identify the agency, its location, and the date of such acceptance or approval and provide a copy of the approval letter.

All Other Costs Proposed. The Offeror shall submit complete details of any other costs not specifically identified or addressed above. The details shall be presented in a manner that will enable a comprehensive and thorough evaluation to be conducted.

EXCEPTIONS/NON-COMPLIANCE:

Exception(s) to or non-compliance with any portion of this RFP shall be clearly identified in a separate Exceptions/Non-Compliance section referencing the specific document, page, paragraph, and item. Exceptions identified in the Offeror's Technical Proposal need not be restated in this section. You are requested to explain the reason(s) for the non-compliance and identify any alternate solutions to achieve compliance. Any exceptions that are taken to the provisions of this RFP will be considered in evaluating the Offeror's proposal and may result in your offer being deemed non-responsive. The absence of a proposal section entitled "Exceptions/Non-Compliance" or a statement indicating "no exceptions are taken" implies complete and unequivocal acceptance of all requirements, terms, and conditions.

CONDITIONS OF PROPOSAL/ASSUMPTIONS:

The Offeror shall identify any conditions and/or assumptions of its proposal in a separate Conditions of Proposal/Assumptions section. The Offeror shall include a list of any Buyer/Government equipment and/or information needed as a condition of performance. Offeror shall include its assertion of Limited or Restricted Rights in Data and/or Software.

SUPPLEMENTARY REQUIREMENTS:

Representations and Certifications – Abbreviated. If your proposal exceeds \$10,000, Offeror must complete and return a copy of the *Representations and Certifications – Abbreviated (BSD-CS-2260)* form, a copy of which can be found here: <https://contracts.ornl.gov/special-articles-and-forms/>.

Organizational Conflicts of Interest. If your proposal exceeds \$250,000 and the Special Provisions section of this RFP includes the "Organizational Conflicts of Interest" clause, the statement required by paragraph (c) of the provision entitled "*Organizational Conflicts of Interest Disclosure - Advisory and Assistance Services*," is made a part of this RFP. A copy of these OCI disclosure statement requirements for Advisory and Assistance Services can be found here: <https://contracts.ornl.gov/special-articles-and-forms/>.

Small Business Subcontracting Plan. If your offer, including options, is \$750,000 or more and the Offeror is a large business, the Offeror shall submit a Small Business Subcontracting Plan that fully meets the requirements of FAR 52.219-9 or complete the ORNL *Small Business Subcontracting Plan Form (BSD-CS-2129)*. A copy of this form can be found here: <https://contracts.ornl.gov/special-articles-and-forms/>. Annual small business reporting will be required via the Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (<http://www.esrs.gov>).

Cost Accounting Standards. If your offer exceeds **\$2 million**, return a completed copy of the *Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) Notices and Certification form (BSD-CS-2039)*. A copy of this form can be found here: <https://contracts.ornl.gov/special-articles-and-forms/>.

Certified Cost and Pricing Data. Offerors are not required to submit certified cost or pricing data with their offer; however, such data may be requested by the Buyer prior to award.

EEO Pre-award Clearance Request. If your proposal exceeds **\$10 million**, Offeror shall submit a copy of the *EEO Pre-award Clearance Request form (BSD-CS-2046)* with items 3, 4, 8, and 9 completed. A copy of this form can be found here: <https://contracts.ornl.gov/special-articles-and-forms/>. (Prospective awardees of subcontracts of \$10 million or more are subject to pre-award compliance evaluations by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), unless within the preceding 24 months OFCCP has conducted an evaluation and found the prospective awardee to be in compliance with Executive Order 11246.)

Foreign End Products. The Offeror shall list as foreign end products those end products that are manufactured outside of the United States that do not qualify as domestic end products. List all foreign end products proposed and their country of origin.

Intellectual Property. DOE has granted a class advance waiver on intellectual property for New Frontiers. In general, the waiver allows an awardee that is a large business, and any first-tier subcontractor of that awardee, to assert copyright to its works of authorship and to elect title to its subject inventions without prior approval from the Government.

Price sharing is a condition of the class advance waiver for a large business awardee. A large business must fund at least 40% of the total price of performance under any New Frontiers subcontract to have the class advance waiver language included in any resulting award. Offerors that are large businesses must make a specific assertion accepting the 40% share (or offering to share more than 40%) to obtain the terms of the class advance waiver. Offerors that are large businesses that do not accept the 40% share and are selected for award will be subject to the FAR and DOE Acquisition Regulations intellectual property clauses in the terms and conditions.

A large business Offeror seeking a class advance waiver who proposes a price share percentage below 40% or otherwise different terms than those stated will be required to negotiate directly with DOE. Due to schedule constraints and the potential delay those negotiations may take, Company may view the Offeror's proposal less favorably than a proposal from an Offeror who accepts the price sharing as proposed.

All contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, shall be accepted as part of the Offeror's price sharing when such contributions meet all of the following criteria.

1. Are verifiable from the recipient's records
2. Are not included as contributions for any other federally-assisted project or program.
3. Are necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of project or program objectives.
4. Are allowable under the applicable cost principles in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 31.2, as supplemented by DOE Acquisition Regulation (DEAR) Subpart 931.2.
5. Are not paid by the Federal Government under another award, except where authorized by Federal statute to be used for price sharing.
6. Are provided for in the approved budget when required by the Company.

Offerors that are small businesses or nonprofit entities should note that the class advance waiver provisions for patents will not be included in a subcontract. By statute, a small business may elect title to its subject invention without prior approval from the Government.

The provisions of this Class Waiver do not automatically apply to any foreign-owned or foreign-controlled subcontractors at any tier. These entities will be subject to the existing FAR and DEAR intellectual property clauses in the terms and conditions.

7. BASIS OF AWARD

Basis of Award – Best Value (Tradeoff). An award resulting from this RFP will be made to the responsible offeror(S) that submits a proposal that is determined to provide the best value to the Company considering both technical merit and cost/price. The technical evaluation process consists of the proposals being reviewed, evaluated and rated using a graded system that assesses the degree of compliance with the Technical Criteria requirements and the level-of-performance risk. ORNL staff will comprise the Evaluation Team, however, other DOE laboratories may be engaged to review proposals for their technical expertise. The Evaluation Factors are listed below, and are listed in descending order of importance:

EVALUATION FACTORS

Technical Evaluation Factors:

- Factor 1: Solution Description
- Factor 2: Research and Development Plan
- Factor 3: Staffing/Partnering Plan
- Factor 4: Project Management Methodology
- Factor 5: Intellectual Property Plan

Other Evaluation Factors:

- Factor 1: Productization Strategy

Technical Evaluation Factors:

1. Solution Description

Offeror shall describe the proposed R&D, with emphasis on how it will provide improvement in the targeted R&D area. Offerors shall discuss the innovative nature of the proposed R&D. Work that funds Offerer's current roadmap is not desired. Technology acceleration is acceptable if there is a clear benefit, and it is part of a broader strategy. The primary intent is to fund long-lead-time R&D objectives where significant advances can be made during the term of this program.

2. Research and Development Plan

Offeror shall provide a plan for conducting the proposed R&D, including timelines, milestones, and proposed deliverables. Deliverables shall be meaningful and measurable. Pricing shall be assigned to each milestone and deliverable. A schedule for periodic technical review by the DOE laboratories shall also be provided. Some projects may develop a hardware prototype that demonstrates the value of the proposed concept. Others may perform a simulation or analysis that assesses the impact (or feasibility) of a proposed development. If funding provided through this RFP is insufficient to effectively demonstrate a concept or produce a prototype, Offerors shall provide a separate, non-binding budgetary estimate for follow-on work that would be needed to achieve this result. Do NOT include the estimated amount for this activity in the price for the R&D being proposed in response to this RFP. This follow-on work could be proposed in response to a future RFP, if one is issued.

We recognize that innovation involves risk. Proposals shall discuss technical and programmatic risk factors and the strategy to manage and to mitigate risk. If the planned R&D is not achieving the expected results, what alternatives will be considered? The amount of risk must be commensurate with the potential impact. Higher risk projects may be acceptable if the impact of the project is also high.

3. Staffing/Partnering Plan

Offerors shall describe staffing categories and levels for the proposed R&D activities. Any collaboration with other industry partners and/or universities shall be identified.

4. Project Management Methodology

Offerors shall provide a project management plan. The Company expects quarterly milestone status updates on selected work packages.

5. Intellectual Property Plan

Proposals shall include a plan for how each intellectual property (IP) item from each portion of the proposed R&D work will be managed.

Other Evaluation Factors

1. Productization Strategy

Offeror shall describe how the proposed technology will be commercialized, productized, or otherwise made available to customers. Offerors shall include identification of target customer base/market(s) for the technology. Offerors shall describe impact specifically on the HPC market as well as the potential for broad adoption. Solutions that have the potential for broader adoption beyond HPC are highly desired. Offerors shall indicate projected timeline for productization.

8. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. **Technical Direction (this will be more fully populated at the time of award)**
2. **Key Personnel**
3. **Exhibit 9 (TECHNICAL DATA (June 2011))**
4. **Statement of Considerations – Class Waiver**

9. PAYMENT TERMS

Payment terms are **Net 30** days (for large businesses) or **Net 15** days (for small businesses) upon final acceptance of the product/service. All payments will be made in U.S. Dollars (USD). Payment shall be made by electronic funds transfer.

10. CLOSING

Should additional information be required on any of these requests please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned Procurement Officer below.

Sincerely,

Jason Holder, Procurement Officer
Phone: (865)341-3684
Email: holderje@ornl.gov