

Sep 2013

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2013**

Project Title: Argentine Ants (*Linepithema Humile*) Detection, Monitoring, And Eradication Effort on Naval Base Coronado, Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island, CA

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the Department of the Navy (DoN), which provides professional and technical support for its Endangered Species Biology Programs in order to facilitate successful implementation of the installation's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Background:

San Clemente Island (SCI) is the southernmost island of the California Channel Island Archipelago. The island is located 68 nm (125 km) west of San Diego and 55 nm (101 km) south of Long Beach, California and is part of Naval Base Coronado.

There are thirteen known ant species on SCI, including the non-native Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*) and twelve native ant species, four of which are Channel Island endemics (Holway & Ward 2011). Argentine ants are an extremely invasive ant species that has spread worldwide resulting in detrimental ecological impacts. This invasive species alters biological communities by negatively affecting native ant populations, other invertebrates, plants and pollinators, terrestrial vertebrates and birds. Argentine ants can cause avian nest failure either directly by predation of nestlings or indirectly by reducing arthropod abundance in foraging areas. SCI supports three federally listed bird species, a listed lizard, and numerous endemic species; eradication of Argentine ants may be critical to recovery and delisting of threatened or endangered species at SCI. Surveys indicate that the Argentine ant population is concentrated in the northern end of the island, making eradication possible on San Clemente.

This project implements, in part, the Commander Navy Region Southwest's (CNRSW) responsibilities pursuant to the ESA (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq.), and Executive Order 13112.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The goal of this project is to eradicate Argentine ants from SCI and implement a monitoring program to detect future infestations for bio-security. In support of this goal, the following specific tasks are anticipated: 1) Detect and delineate (map) the population of Argentine ants on SCI. 2) Develop detection protocols for Argentine ants at low densities to aid in the eradication of this invasive species. 3) Develop and implement an eradication program. Reporting under the

project shall, at a minimum, include work and safety plans, progress reports, Operational Plan, Licensed Pesticide Application reporting, a Detection Protocol (as an Option), and a final report.

Period of Performance. The period covered by this Scope of Work (including report preparation, review, submittal of final invoice, invoice payment, etc.) is 3years from the date of award. The 3-year period of performance is driven by biological factors. Fieldwork would occur in the 3-year period to ensure adequate monitoring of this invasive species threat, treatment application, and efficacy assessment under various seasonal/precipitation-driven conditions.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to charlotte.ange@navy.mil

(Maximum length: 10 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - a. Biographical Sketch,
 - b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
 - c. Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise,
 - d. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g., permits, equipment, laboratory facilities, field facilities, etc.).
 - e. Copy of existing pesticide permit(s) (off label use if necessary) or assertion of ability to obtain permit as necessary for project.

Review of Statements Received: Proposals will be evaluated based on the four factors listed below and include the credentials of key personnel, scientific approach, reasonableness of the cost and safety plan. Evaluation factors are co-equal to each other.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

Project Manager. This individual must have:

- a minimum of an MA/MS in entomology, ecology, or related science disciplines; and
- a CV demonstrating expert knowledge in Argentine ants, their ecological effects, and eradication/control techniques in wildland habitats (i.e., not facilities pest control)
- demonstrated use of GIS units and maps for tracking and monitoring work
- an ability to identify ants likely to be found in the California Channel Islands
- a minimum of 2 years experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in ecological studies of the Argentine ant and its control/eradication on a landscape scale

Technical Staff. This individual must have:

- a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Ecology, Entomology, Wildlife Biology or related science disciplines; and
- demonstrated field experience with ant monitoring in remote locations

Factor 2 – Innovative Scientific Approach – The Offeror shall develop a proposal addressing the proposed management actions and monitoring of Argentine ants on SCI. The Offeror shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and the use of any innovative techniques to accomplish the objectives of the stated approach.

Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost – After technical evaluation of the proposal, the offers shall be analyzed to determine whether they are balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. Evaluations will include an analysis to determine the Offeror's comprehension of the requirements of the solicitation as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror's approach.

Factor 4 – Technical Approach to Safety – The Offeror shall provide a narrative of describing how safety practices/procedures will be implemented to complete the proposed work. Proposals shall be analyzed to determine how the Offeror will implement safety practices/procedures and determine the degree to which innovations are being proposed that may enhance safety on this procurement. The Government is seeking to determine that the Offeror has demonstrated a commitment to safety and that the Offeror plans to properly manage and implement safety procedures for itself.

Please send responses or direct questions to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic

Attn: Ms. Charlotte Ange (Code ACQ21)

charlotte.ange@navy.mil

Phone: 758-322-8261

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by Friday, September 20th 4:00pm ET.

Special Conditions:

a. Equipment and Supplies. The PI is expected to supply all equipment and supplies necessary for fulfillment under the SOW. Costs will be reimbursed by the Government Representative in accordance with the terms of the Cooperative Agreement. Upon completion of the work, any non-disposable items purchased under this SOW will become property of the Government.

b. Infrastructure. The PI is responsible for providing accommodations.

c. Transportation. Air transportation to SCI, and vehicle transportation on SCI shall be provided by SCI personnel.

d. Use of Information. The information, data, and material recovered, developed, gathered and assembled and reproduced by the PI, his/her technical specialists, or their associates, in fulfillment of the contract requirements, as defined or related to, in the Scope of Work, will become the property of the Navy and shall, therefore, not be used by the PI for any purpose or use, nor released prior to public release by the Navy, without the written consent of the Government Representative.