

May 2015

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
Development and Implementation of Eradication and Monitoring Methodologies of the
Argentine Ant (*Linepithema Humile*) on Naval Base Coronado, Naval Auxiliary Landing
Field San Clemente Island, CA
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2015

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). Approximately \$300,000 is expected to be available to support this project beginning in FY15. Up to three Options Years may be exercised to conduct long-term monitoring of Argentine ant eradication success and ecological recovery. These Options may be funded in fiscal years FY16-18.

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. A previous Cooperative Agreement (N62470-13-2-8022) was awarded in 2013 to conduct a pilot eradication program and Eradication Operational Plan. This Cooperative Agreement builds on that project with the

intention of fully implementing the Operational Plan and eradicating Argentine ants from the island. The Complete Scope of Work is provided as Attachment A.

Period of Performance. The period of performance for this Cooperative Agreement will depend upon the final proposal selected, but is expected to be approximately 12 months from date of award. Up to three Option Years, if exercised, may extend this Period of Performance.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to penny.brown@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.

Note: We are intending to use fiscal year 2015 funds for this project. A detailed study proposal and cost estimate are requested at this time.

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.

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(s) must have:

- A minimum of a BA/BS 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 eradicating and monitoring of Argentine ants on SCI. The Offeror will 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 – Technical Approach to Safety – The Offeror shall provide a narrative describing how safety practices/procedures will be implemented to complete the proposed work. Proposals will 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 and its subcontractors.

Factor 4 – Reasonableness of Cost* – The proposal will be analyzed to determine whether it pricing is materially/mathematically balanced, and is fair and reasonable. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 “Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education,” or 48 CFR part 31 “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” as applicable. Evaluation 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.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided PDF titled, “Research and Related Budget” form.*

***Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET**

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form. You must provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs, by cost category, by the funding periods described below, and by task/sub-task corresponding to the task number in the proposed Statement of Work. Options (if applicable) must be separately priced. The form will generate a cumulative budget for the total project period. You must complete all the mandatory information on the form before the NEXT PERIOD button is activated. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles. The budget should adhere to the following guidelines:

The budget should be driven by program requirements. Elements of the budget shall include:

- Direct Labor - Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates.
- Indirect Costs - Fringe benefits, overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (must show base amount and rate). Justify in Field K.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field K (on the form).

- Subcontract - A cost proposal as detailed as the applicant's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. If applicable, include in Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment Form.
- Consultant - Provide consultant agreement or other document that verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate. Include a description of the nature of and the need for any consultant's participation. Strong justification must be provided, and consultants are to be used only under exceptional circumstances where no equivalent expertise can be found at a participating university. Provide budget justification in Field K.
- Materials - Specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.
- Other Directs Costs - Particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the cooperator/recipient (justifications must be provided when Government funding for such items is sought). Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.
- Budget Justification (Field K on the form): Provide the required supporting information for the cost elements as shown above (see Research & Related Budget instructions) and listed as follows: indirect cost, travel, consultant, materials, and other direct costs. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 1, Credentials of the Project Manager and Technical staff, Factor 2, Innovative Scientific Approach and Factor 3 Approach to Safety are approximately equal in value. When combined, these factors are significantly more important than Factor 4, Reasonableness of Cost.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Mrs. Penny Brown, Grants Administrator, Environmental Acquisition Core
penny.brown@navy.mil.

Point of Contact Information:

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Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by June 15, 2015 2:00 PM local time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected.

Special Conditions:

a. Equipment and Supplies. The Recipient is expected to supply all equipment and supplies necessary for fulfillment under the SOW. Upon completion of the work, any non-disposable items purchased under this SOW valued over \$5,000 will become property of the Navy.

b. Infrastructure. The Recipient PI is responsible for funding the cost of accommodations.

c. Transportation. Air transportation from Naval Base Coronado 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 Recipient, 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 and the Grants Officer.