

**May 07, 2015 – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST (RSOI) FOR N62473-15-2-0009: INVERTEBRATE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION**

**Question 1:** What is the extent of the backlogged material and how it is being stored (dry, frozen, wet, etc.)?

**Answer 1:** Estimated 150,000 specimens (perhaps more). Approximately 100,000 specimens in alcohol, the rest dried and mounted. Currently being stored in cabinets, kept out of natural light, to prevent fading of colors. Monitored frequently to prevent loss to specimen beetles and other dangers. Such level of precautionary care will be continued under new agreement.

**Question 2:** From the RSOI, it seem as though the base year does not really entail fieldwork, just identification/validation and cataloging... is this correct?

**Answer 2:** Yes.

NOTE: All other paragraphs, provisions, and conditions to subject RSOI remain unchanged.

**May 22, 2015 – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST (RSOI) FOR N62473-15-2-0009: INVERTEBRATE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION**

**Question 3:** On the approximately 150,000 arthropod material from Invertebrate Species Identification at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California needing identification... with the understanding that some groups will be impossible to get genus or species identifications based on the current taxonomic knowledge, what would be the time limitations?

**Answer 3:** Statement of Work states [specimens] "shall be identified to a level most scientifically appropriate and practicable (at very least to family)." Period of performance is 18 months from award of the cooperative agreement.

**Question 4:** The scope of work states that there "is estimated to be 60,000 to 70,000 mounted specimens, and at least 100,000 specimens preserved in alcohol." I am curious how the mounted material is currently housed and what the expectation is for the awardee. In our collection at the museum for instance, I can look at the sum of specimens per drawer and how many drawers does it take to get to 70,000 specimens. The lowest count was 250 drawers the highest count was 570 drawers. I imagine the material in the SOW is more compact than our curated collection, but it begs the question, "How will the material be housed for transfer to the awardee?" If it is in unit trays, drawers, and/or Schmidt boxes, then does that housing become the property of the awardee? If not, what is the expectation to transfer possession? If we have to take possession in our own boxes, the simple act of moving 70,000 specimens, one pin at a time, from one box to another will time intensive. Will all material stored in ethanol be exchanged with its storage container or will the awardee be responsible for transferring to new storage for exchange of possession?

**Answer 4:** Specimens currently housed in 7 cabinets (each about 3' tall, 4' wide, 2' deep) each with 24 drawers. The specimens are in multiple trays within the drawers. The cabinets, drawers, and trays belong to previous surveyor and collector of specimens. The Government is willing to let the awardee take the trays as long as they are returned (after specimens are transferred to awardee's storage system) or replaced. Ideally, the contractor would come up with identical cabinets and the empty drawers simply swapped for the drawers full of specimens. Material stored in ethanol will be exchanged with its storage container. Pickup and safe transfer will be responsibility of awardee. Awardee will be provided directions and contact information of previous cooperator to arrange directly for pickup. Specimens must be transported in an acceptable manner so as to avoid damage.

**Question 5:** What is the extent of the backlogged material and how it is being stored (dry, frozen, wet, etc.)?

**Answer 5:** Estimated 150,000-170,000 specimens total. Approximately 100,000 specimens in alcohol, the rest dried and mounted. They are currently being stored in cabinets, kept out of natural light to prevent fading of colors. They are monitored frequently to prevent loss to specimen beetles and other dangers. Such level of precautionary care shall be continued under new agreement.

NOTE: All other paragraphs, provisions, and conditions to subject RSOI remain unchanged.