

23 July 2015

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
N62473-15-2-0019
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2015
Argentine Ant (*Linepithema humile*) Eradication Feasibility Study
on Naval Base Ventura, San Nicolas 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). Approximately \$44,000 is expected to be available to support this project beginning in FY15.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1 (Sikes Act)

Eligible Applicants: Any Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unite Californian cooperative partner who qualifies under the DoDGARS Part 34 and 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200 is eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

Argentine ants (*Linepithema humile*) are an extremely invasive ant species that has spread into many wildland areas across the globe 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. The Argentine ant has invaded approximately 20% of San Nicolas Island (SNI), threatening ecosystem processes and protected species including the San Nicolas Island Fox. Eradication of Argentine ants may be critical to sustaining a healthy ecosystem on the island. Recent trials on Santa Cruz Island and San Clemente Island indicate that eradication of Argentine ants in the Channel Islands is feasible; however, given the more mesic maritime climate and extensive invasion, it is not clear whether eradication is possible or what the parameters for successful eradication on SNI are. This project seeks to identify a Cooperating Partner to assist the US Navy in answering these questions.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The ultimate goal of this project is to eradicate Argentine ants from SNI and implement a monitoring program to detect future infestations for bio-security. The first step to that end is to determine the feasibility of eradication. This feasibility study is to consider, at a minimum, the financial costs, the environmental/biological constraints, the naval base-operational constraints, and major logistical issues of an eradication operation. See Enclosure 1 for full scope of work and Enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

Period of Performance. The period of performance covered by this agreement is 18 months upon award. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Provide the following via e-mail attachment to brandon.spaulding@navy.mil.

- 1) SF 424 (Enclosure 3)
- 2) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 4). Please see Factor 1 for additional submittal requirements.
- 3) Research and Related Budget (Enclosure 5)
- 4) SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (Enclosure 6). If applicable, complete SF-LLL. Applicability: If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

Review of Statements Received: Proposals will be evaluated based on the following four factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel 2) Innovative Scientific Approach 3) Technical Approach to Safety 4) Reasonableness of Cost

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. Information provided must be recent (within last seven (7) years) and relevant. Offerors will be assessed on their ability to adhere to the listed requirements, completeness of responses, follow directions, comply with restrictions and provide quality control on their submittals. All page limits refer to 12 point font and single spaced one-sided pages.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

Project Manager. This individual must have:

- A minimum of a PhD in entomology, ecology, or related science disciplines;
- 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 of 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;
- Demonstrated field experience with ant monitoring in remote locations

Factor 2 – Innovative Scientific Approach – The Offeror shall develop a proposal addressing the components of an eradication feasibility study of Argentine ants on SNI. Specific methods and timing of activities shall be discussed in the proposal. Applicant’s proposals will be evaluated by a team of technical and contracting personnel from NAVFAC SW and installation personnel. Applications will be evaluated based on their soundness of the overall approach to accomplish the anticipated work’s stated objectives. Maximum length is 6 pages, single-spaced with 12 pt font.

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 its 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. 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.

NOTE: Every deviation from the scope of work requirement must be identified. Offerors must identify the paragraph in the scope of work that is applicable and provide sufficient information to justify why the deviation is in the best interest of the Government.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 1, Credentials of Key Personnel, Factor 2, Innovative Scientific Approach and Factor 3 Technical 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 questions and statements of interest to:

Mr. Brandon Spaulding, Grants Administrator, Environmental Acquisition Core
brandon.spaulding@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 August 17, 2015 2:00 PM local time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after August 17, 2015 2:00 PM local standard time exact is “late” and may not be considered.