

August 2018

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE
ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
INTEREST #N62473-18-2-0014
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2018**

Project Title: Eradication of the Argentine Ant (*Linepithema Humile*) 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). Approximately \$240,000 is expected to be available to support this project beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 to conduct continued research into eradication methodologies and to continue treatment of Argentine ant infestations on San Clemente Island (SCI). A performance option may be exercised to increase by 75 acres the area treated and to monitor efficacy. This Option may be funded within 24 months of award.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1

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

Cost Sharing: Not required

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 approximately eleven (11) native ant species on SCI, four of which are Channel Island endemics (Holway & Ward 2011). Two (2) species of ants have been introduced to the island, including the non-native Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*). 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. Effort to date has demonstrated the

feasibility of eradicating discrete infestations on SCI and significantly reducing others, making eradication possible on the entire island.

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. Work under two previous Cooperative Agreements (N62470-13-2-8022 awarded in 2013 and N62473-15-2-0015 awarded in 2015) significantly reduced the geographic extent of the eradication and developed refined baiting protocols. This Cooperative Agreement builds on current success with the intention of fully eradicating Argentine ants from the island. The Complete Scope of Work is provided as Attachment A.

Please see enclosure 1 for full scope of work and enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

Period of Performance. The period of performance for this Cooperative Agreement will depend upon the final proposal selected, but is expected to be approximately 60 months from date of award. There is one (1) performance Option which may be exercised at any time within the first 48 months of the agreement.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Matt Koontz (Matt.Koontz@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 Form (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."
- 5) Research and Related Summary Personnel Form (Enclosure 7). The Federal Government has a continuing commitment to monitor the operation of its review and award processes to identify and address any inequities based on gender, race, ethnicity, or disability of its

proposed PDs/PIs and co-PDs/PIs. To gather information needed for this important task, the applicant should submit the requested information for each identified PD/PI and co-PDs/PIs with each proposal. Submission of the requested information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. However, information not submitted will seriously undermine the statistical validity, and therefore the usefulness, of information received from others. Any individual not wishing to submit some or all the information should check the box provided for this purpose. Upon receipt of the application, this form will be separated from the application. This form will not be duplicated, and it will not be a part of the review process. This data will be kept confidential.

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

Please note, that some of the forms functionality may be lost. Please visit <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/r-r-family.html#sortby=1> to retrieve the forms directly from the Grants.gov website.

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

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. 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

Principal Investigator. This individual must have:

- A minimum of a PhD in entomology, ecology, or related science discipline;
- A CV demonstrating expert knowledge of Argentine ants, their ecological effects, and ant eradication/control techniques in wildland habitats (i.e., not facilities pest control);
- An ability to identify ants likely to be found in the California Channel Islands;
- A demonstrated ability to provide administrative, scientific, and human/financial resources to support a conservation program in wildland areas;
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in a Program Management or Principal Investigator position

Note: Only the Principal Investigator CV submittal requirement is necessary for this RSOI, however, the Scope of Work still has qualification requirements for the Project Manager and Technician(s).

Factor 2 – Innovative Scientific Approach – The Offeror shall address 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

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the Offers shall be analyzed to determine whether they are materially/mathematically balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. A clear cost breakdown of work elements to be accomplished detailing quantities for the various work items, unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the proposed agreement 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* (Enclosure 5). Please submit one budget form for the base year of work and separate budget form for the option specified in the Statement of Work.

***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. Proposer 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, 2, 3, and 4 are of equal importance.

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by August 21, 2018 2:00 PM local time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Mr. Matt Koontz, Grants Administrator, Environmental Acquisition Core
Matt.Koontz@navy.mil

Point of Contact Information:

Matt Koontz, Grants Administrator, Environmental Acquisition Core
 Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
 1220 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92132
 Phone Number: 619.532.3312
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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.