

<b>Funding Agency:</b> US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District 2204 3 <sup>rd</sup> street JBER, AK. 99506	<b>Funding Instrument:</b> Cooperative Agreement <b>Funding Opportunity No:</b> POA-CESU-20-02 <b>CFDA No:</b> 12.632 <b>Program Title:</b> Endangered Species Act 16 USC 1531 et seq																		
<b>Issue Date:</b> 20 February 2020	<b>Application Due Date:</b> 23 March 2020																		
<p><b>Overview:</b> <b>POA-CESU 20-02</b> KING SALMON BAT SURVEYS.</p> <p><b>See Scope of Work and attached references for detailed information.</b></p> <p><b>Period of Performance is:</b> 18 months from date of award. This requirement may be modified to extend the period of performance by one additional year if these tasks are still required and acceptable performance has been met. This does not obligate the Government to extend this agreement.</p>																			
<b>Estimated Total Funding:</b> \$111,556	<b>Anticipated Number of Awards:</b> 1																		
<b>Contents of Full Text Announcement</b>																			
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<p><b>Contact Information:</b> Questions that are related to Grants.gov including registration and system requirements should be directed to the Grants.gov contact center at 1-800-518-4726. For assistance with this funding Opportunity Announcement please contact Olen.R.Northern@usace.army.mil</p>																			

**Instructions to Applicant:** The complete Funding Opportunity Announcement, application forms and Instructions can be downloaded directly from Grants.gov.

Applications in response to this Funding Opportunity Announcement must be submitted by 2:00PM Alaska time, on the Application Due Date. Applications may be submitted by mail, e-mail, or via the internet through Grants.gov. Each applicant is responsible to ensure their application has been received timely.

Applicants will have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, and registered

See section IV of the Funding Opportunity Announcement for complete application submission information.

### **Section I: Funding Opportunity Description**

#### **MANAGEMENT, SPECIES, BAT SURVEY KING SALMON AIRPORT, AK.**

### **Section II: Award Information**

Cooperative Agreement, \$111,556, 18 month period of performance with possibility of extension.

### **Section III: Eligibility Information**

Eligible Applicants – CESU Hawaii, N&W Alaska, PNW, CA, and Colorado Plateau.

### **Section IV: Application and Submission Information**

#### **1. Address to Request Application Package**

The complete funding opportunity announcement, application forms, and instructions are available for download at Grants.gov. USACE is not responsible for any loss of internet connectivity or for an applicant's inability to access documents posted at the referenced website.

The administrative point of contact is Olen Northern, (907) 753-2525, [Olen.R.Northern@usace.army.mil](mailto:Olen.R.Northern@usace.army.mil) and/or Kelly McFarlin, (907) 753-2879, [Kelly.n.mcfarlin@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kelly.n.mcfarlin@usace.army.mil)

#### **2. Content and Form of Application Submission**

All mandatory forms and any applicable optional forms must be completed in accordance with the instructions on the forms and the additional instructions below.

a. SF 424 - Application for Federal Assistance

b. SF 424 A – Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs

c. SF 424 B – Assurances – Non-Construction Programs

d. Program Narrative – Brief program description illustrating applicant's ability to meet the goals and objectives described in Section I of the announcement.

Application shall be submitted NO LATER THAN 23 March 2020

### 3. Submission Instructions

Applications may be submitted via e-mail and, or the internet.

#### a. Internet:

Applicants are required to submit proposals through Grants.gov. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their Grants.gov proposal submission is received in its entirety. The Government bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission of conversion processes associated with electronic submissions. The Government will bear no responsibility for delays in submissions due to technical difficulties at or with the Grants.gov website.

All applicants using Grants.gov to submit proposals must be registered and have an account with Grants.gov. It may take up to three weeks to complete Grants.gov registration. For more information on registration, go to <http://www.grants.gov/ForApplicants>.

#### b. E-mail:

If there is an issue with submission to Grants.gov, please contact the Corps at the email addresses below. Format all documents to print on Letter (8 ½ x 11”) paper. E-mail proposal to [Olen.R.Northern@usace.army.mil](mailto:Olen.R.Northern@usace.army.mil) and/or [Kelly.n.mcfarlin@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kelly.n.mcfarlin@usace.army.mil)

### **Section V: Application Review Information**

1. Evaluation for Selection to receive consideration for award, the proposal must meet the requirements set forth in this FOA and be presented with adequate detail to assure the evaluator(s) have a good understanding of the proposed requirement(s). All proposals will be evaluated to determine the extent to which each offeror demonstrates a clear understanding of the requirements of the announcement, Scope of Work (SOW), and FOA.

The offeror shall submit a proposal that completely addresses all evaluation criteria and specifically identifies how each requirement will be satisfied. Technical proposal shall be no longer than 15-pages, font 12 (This page limitation is in addition to all required forms). All questions shall be submitted no later than 9 March 2020 at 2:00PM Alaska time.

2. Basis of Award: The selection decision will be based on the NFE offering the best overall value to the Government, with consideration given to all factors described below (weighted in descending order of importance). Proposals will not be ranked. The Government will not award a Cooperative Agreement to a grantee whose proposal contains a deficiency. The selection will not be based on lowest proposed cost, it will be based on an analysis of each criteria listed below. The proposal document shall be outlined as shown below.

STATEMENT OF WORK (SOW)  
USAF 611TH CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON

MANAGEMENT, SPECIES, BAT SURVEY (VNMHA53207119)  
KING SALMON AIRPORT, AK  
BASE PROJECT COST CEILING WITHOUT OPTIONS: \$111,556

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This Statement of Work (SOW) provides the details of work to be performed for the 611<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Squadron (CES) through a cooperative agreement (CA) administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (USACE) and the Cooperator. The Cooperator shall support the Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center (PRSC), 611 Civil Engineer Squadron Natural Resources Program with conducting bat surveys at the King Salmon Airport (KSA) military installation.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

Reference A identifies the installation boundary of the United States Air Force (USAF) King Salmon Airport (KSA) military installation. The land and infrastructure positioned within the installation boundary are utilized for homeland defense. The installation is managed by the Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center (PRSC), headquartered at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska. Base Operations Support (BOS) contractors execute many of the day to day maintenance activities on this installation. In the summer of 2019, Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) environmental inspectors performed an audit of the KSA installation grounds and discovered bat guano in two buildings, specifically building 149 and 638. No sightings of actual bats were made during the diurnal AFCEC investigation, however photographs taken during the site visit depict heavy staining indicative of potential bat presence. Building 638 is occupied and detailed as “active” by the 611 Civil Engineer Squadron (611 CES) operations department, whereas building 149 is slated for demolition. Photographs taken during the 2019 summer, which displays the staining noted during inspection of the aforementioned facilities. The execution targets for this natural resource management project are as follows: (1) identify the presence, abundance and distribution of bats utilizing KSA properties; (2) deploy non-lethal deterrents to inhibit bat usage of installation buildings 149 and 638 and determine the efficacy of said deterrents; (3) conduct bat inspection of all standing infrastructure and buildings.

## **2.1 AUTHORITY**

Projects for execution under this Cooperative Agreement (CA) by USACE do not include any functions to be performed that are inherently governmental. This determination is made with the assessment that places emphasis on the degree to which conditions and facts restrict the

discretionary authority, decision-making responsibility, or accountability of Government officials using Non-Federal Entity (NFE) services or work products.

Legal Drivers: Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), DoD Instruction 4715.03, *Natural Resources Conservation Program* (February 14, 2011); AFI 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*; and 3WGI 91-212, *Bird and Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Program* and AR 200-1, *Land Resources*.

### **3.0 MAJOR REQUIREMENTS AND TASKS**

The tasks and deliverables described within this SOW shall be completed during the course of the period of performance. The period of performance is defined as 18 months from date of award. The Cooperator is responsible for completion of all tasks described within this SOW, inclusive of transport needs, state and federal permitting, and any logistical needs or costs required to perform the work identified within this SOW. Reference B provides the Cooperator with an understanding of installation access, visitor processing, required forms, and other information helpful for new visitors to KSA. The Cooperator is responsible for populating and submitting all site access request documentation within Reference C in order to access the USAF site. In the event the Cooperator lacks certain skills sets or logistical talents to complete tasks in this SOW, the Cooperator is advised to set up a sub agreement or sub contract with freight forwarders, hotels, rental car agencies, airlines, or logistics firms capable of fulfilling such tasks the Cooperator lacks the skill set or equipment to perform.

#### **3.1 TASK 1 - WORK PLAN**

A Draft Work Plan shall be created by the Cooperator displaying how and when the work shall be completed over the course of the period of performance. The period of performance for this award is 18 months from the date of award. Within the work plan, the NFE shall populate a Project Planning Chart (PPC), which details timing of actions taking place through the span of the entire scope of the project. Dates of site visits, document submissions, and review periods shall be portrayed in the PPC. The use of Gantt charts to fulfill the PPC requirement of the draft and final work plan is appropriate. A list of employees, inclusive of their educational certificates and licenses shall also be portrayed in the work plan. The Cooperator may require usage of the on site contractor for logistics, vehicles, building access and other site specific support in the town of King Salmon. The services the Cooperator intends to subcontract from the installation support contractor or other logistics contractors in the state shall be described in the draft work plan and identified as subcontract actions. Scientific support for the methods of selection for the implementation of bat surveys as well as any equipment selected to implement those tasks shall be depicted in the work plan. The bat survey methods, design and approach shall yield a population index for the installation. The approach proposed and methods selected shall be repeatable. All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for the inspection of buildings and other areas on base shall be identified within the work plan. The work plan shall also include a

section entitled “safety” where the Cooperator lays out how project safety hazards will be eliminated or mitigated. The safety section of the work plan shall identify what PPE for respiration and confined dark areas will be used during the project. Prior to implementation of field work, the Cooperator shall apply and obtain all federal and state permits required for the proposed work. Copies of draft permit applications and final permits shall be included in the draft and final work plan. The work plan shall identify and include sources of peer reviewed literature which depicts how successful the selected survey methods and deterrents have performed elsewhere in the world. Any equipment used for detecting or deterring bats, shall have a proven track record elsewhere prior to being purchased and used on the project. The work plan contents shall defend and explain the Cooperator’s selected scientific approach for the methods used to implement tasks in this SOW. An itemized list of all equipment and the purchase price shall appear in the draft and final workplan. The survey design shall be outlined in the draft work plan in a manner by which a reader can repeat the survey. The USAF anticipates repeating the survey in future years, thus the survey design and methodologies shall be clear, easily repeatable, and memorialized using high quality maps, detailed descriptions, GIS and peer reviewed methodologies. A Draft Work Plan shall be submitted to the government within 21 calendar days of award date. The government shall be afforded a 14 calendar day review period and shall provide the Cooperator with comments to utilize for finalization of the document.

The Cooperator shall utilize the government comments to make final edits and changes to the work plan. A response to each government comment shall be documented by the Cooperator within a response to comment matrix, which shall be submitted alongside the Final Work Plan. The Cooperator shall submit a Final Work Plan with accompanying populated response to comment matrix within 45 calendar days of award date.

### **3.2 TASK 2 - BAT SURVEYS**

After the government has reviewed and approved the final workplan, the Cooperator shall implement bat surveys on the installation properties using the methodologies and approach detailed in the final work plan. Buildings and all building voids shall be inspected for the presence of bats or evidence of their usage of buildings on the installation property. Any sign of guano shall also be noted and documented. In buildings where guano or current or past bat presence is detected, the Cooperator shall document how bats entered and exited the building or structure. Any bat egress or ingress apertures found in buildings with bat presence shall be photographed, assigned a unique repair number, and documented within the draft and final reports. Tables shall be used in the report to list all needed repairs. Repairs suggested for each aperture shall identify the specific equipment and materials that one should use to repair the hole or gap. In addition to surveying for the presence of bats within buildings on the installation, the Cooperator shall implement population monitoring surveys across the installation as described within the final workplan. Survey effort shall encompass all areas of the installation using an index approach, given the size of the installation. GPS coordinates of all survey stations and areas addressed by the survey methods shall be recorded and depicted in the draft and final

summary reports. Areas within the installation boundary not surveyed shall be mapped within the draft and final reports as well, in order to memorialize any gaps in surveyor coverage. The Cooperator shall inspect and survey 100% of the buildings present on the installation and record the building number, its location on a map and explain in the draft and final report whether or not the building is actively being used by bats or has evidence of historical bat usage. The buildings found to actively house bats or documented as historically possessing bats, shall be the focus of task 4. The government shall acquire all equipment resulting from the implementation of this task and others in the SOW. Upon completion of tasks within this SOW, the PRSC shall acquire all equipment purchased with this USACE award and utilize it for natural resource management on KSA and other PRSC installations.

### **3.3 TASK 3 - DEPLOY AND TEST BUILDING DETERRENTS**

During the implementation of Task 3 the contractor shall document which buildings on KSA possess bats or have evidence of prior occupation. Prior to deploying deterrents, the Cooperator shall hold a teleconference with the USACE and PRSC alerting them to the building numbers on KSA which shall be accessed and provided with deterrents based on draft survey results. The Cooperator shall deploy bat deterrents to each building where active or historic bat presence was identified. Deterrents selected shall not cause bat mortality. The deterrents selected shall have prior identified success in peer reviewed literature or industry reports. The density of deterrents deployed to each building or void shall be based on the volume of open space, operational efficacy of the deterrent and the severity of bat occurrence. A map showing the location of each deterrent deployed shall be included in the draft and final summary report. The manufacturer and model of each deterrent shall be recorded and referenced in the methods section of the draft and final summary report. Each building or void defined as occupied or historically occupied by bats which receives deterrents shall be monitored after deterrents are deployed. The efficacy of the deterrents deployed shall be documented in the draft and final reports. Photographs of each building or void impacted by bats shall be taken prior to deployment of deterrents and after the deployment of deterrents. Photographs documenting the efficacy or failure of the deterrents shall be taken from the same location and position, such that comparisons can easily be made. The Cooperator shall identify a secondary method of determining deterrent efficacy validation in the draft and final work plan for government approval prior to implementation. The second method of validation shall provide an increased level of assurance the performance of deterrents is appropriately characterized in the draft and final summary report. The government shall acquire all equipment resulting from the implementation of this task. Upon completion of tasks within this SOW, the PRSC shall acquire all equipment purchased with this USACE award and utilize it for natural resource management on KSA and other PRSC installations.

### **3.4 TASK 4 - SUMMARY REPORT**

The Cooperator shall take information collected over the course of the project and develop a draft project summary report. The report shall adopt the 2018 short template format utilized by the “Journal of Wildlife Management” (JWM). Reference D is the JWM 2018 Author

guidelines. The Cooperator shall adopt the short template guidelines within Reference C when drafting this SOW's reports. The methods used by the Cooperator to implement each task shall be described in depth as well as the personnel and equipment used to complete the effort. Maps of the areas surveyed shall be included in the reports along with photos resulting from building inspections and deterrent trials. The "Discussion" section should focus on any deterrent failures, successes and any challenges; text in this section shall also provide potential explanations for observations made. Areas not surveyed shall be clearly mapped within the report. All permit application and final permit #'s and agency issuers shall be depicted in the report in addition to any pivotal regulatory communication surrounding the permit. References or literature utilized to execute the project or draft reports shall be portrayed in a Literature Cited section as portrayed by Reference D. The draft summary report shall be submitted to the government within 480 calendar days of award. The government shall be afforded a 14 calendar day review period. The government shall provide comments to the Cooperator on a response to comment matrix.

The Cooperator shall utilize the government comments to make final edits and changes to the draft project summary report. A response to each government comment shall be documented by the Cooperator within a response to comment matrix, which shall be submitted alongside the Final Project Summary Report. The Cooperator shall submit a Final Project Summary report with accompanying populated response to comment matrix within 510 calendar days of award. All GIS files used to generate maps in the final report shall be submitted alongside the final report. GIS file mapping restrictions and formats the Cooperator shall follow are detailed in Reference E and section 8.0 of this SOW.

### **3.5 OPTION TASK 5 - ADDITIONAL DETERRENT TRIALS**

The government shall award Option 5 if it determines the results from execution of Task 4 are ineffective or are capable of reaching a higher level of efficacy. If Option Task 5 is awarded by the USACE, the Cooperator shall visit the installation and deploy new deterrents to buildings occupied or utilized by bats. The technology or approach used to implement Option Task 5 shall be different in comparison to the technology or approach used to implement Task 4. The Cooperator shall determine the efficacy of newly placed deterrents implemented under this optional task. Efficacy shall be determined using at least two methods. Actions carried out under this task and the results from deployment of new bat deterrents shall be memorialized in a site visit report, which shall be submitted to the government for approval within 180 calendar days of option task 7 award. The government shall be afforded 7 calendar days to review the site visit report and provide feedback to the Cooperator. The Cooperator shall address any government comments and provide a final site visit report to the government 14 calendar days from receipt of government comment. Upon completion of this tasks, the PRSC shall acquire all equipment purchased with this USACE award and utilize it for natural resource management on KSA and other PRSC installations. The digital GIS files associated with the site visit reports maps shall be provided to the government simultaneous with submission of the final site visit report and submitted to the PRSC on a CD or DVD.

### **3.6 OPTION TASK 6 - ADDITIONAL BAT TRACKING**

The government shall award Option 6 if it determines the results from execution of Task 3 warrant further survey effort. If Option Task 6 is awarded by the USACE, the Cooperator shall visit the installation and survey for the presence of bats within all infrastructure and outdoor areas within the installation boundary. Deviations from methods utilized during the execution of task 3 shall only be carried out if approved in email or writing from the PRSC. Actions carried out under this task and the results from the additional survey effort shall be memorialized in a site visit report, which shall be submitted to the government for approval within 180 calendar days of option task 6 award. The government shall be afforded 7 calendar days to review the site visit report and provide feedback to the Cooperator. The Cooperator shall address any government comments and provide a final site visit report to the government 14 calendar days from receipt of government comment. Upon completion of this task, the PRSC shall acquire all equipment purchased with this USACE award and utilize it for natural resource management on KSA and other PRSC installations. The digital GIS files associated with the site visit reports maps shall be provided to the government simultaneous with submission of the final site visit report and submitted to the PRSC on a CD or DVD.

### **4.0 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS**

All supplies and materials required to complete tasks within the SOW must be purchased or leased by the Cooperator. Personal protection equipment (PPE) shall be utilized during the project when entering confined spaces and working in outdoor areas. Procurement of any equipment is the requirement of the Cooperator. Upon completion of all tasks in the SOW, the Cooperator shall clean and place all equipment purchased with project funds within in boxes and stage them indoors at the dry goods warehouse at KSA. Boxes shall be labeled as “2020 PRSC Bat Field Equipment”.

### **5.0 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Cooperator shall have recent experience performing bat surveys. The lead biologist who visits the installation during this project shall have at least 4 years of bat experience conducting surveys and or inspections of buildings for bat presence. The lead biologist who visits the installation shall have at minimum 4 years of experience using auditory detection systems for bats. A bachelor’s degree in the sciences is a minimum requirement for all biologists accessing the installation and supporting the implementation of field tasks.

### **6.0 NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Cooperator is required to notify the USACE and PRSC of critical issues that may affect human health and the environment. In addition, the Cooperator is responsible for reporting in email, schedule deviations which significantly impact performance and timing of task completion in accordance with this SOW’s timelines. The types of human health or

environmental issues that require notification include, but are not limited to, spills, unexpected utility crossings, unusual weather conditions, unacceptable materials, changes in critical personnel, and Unexploded Ordinance (UXO). As an example, if UXO was discovered during field activities, the Cooperator would be required to immediately stop work, report the discovery to the base POC and implement the appropriate safety precautions. Commencement of field activities could not continue until clearance was received from the government. The Cooperator shall not publish results of the project tasks without obtaining email or written permission from the PRSC. The PRSC promotes academic publications which do not degrade the military mission and reserves the right to deny publication of information collected with funds generated from this project, if the PRSC decides the draft publication degrades the military mission. The Cooperator shall not communicate the results of the project with any state or federal regulator or member of the media, but rather give the respect to the funding entity to provide such results to the regulatory entities and press. In those instances when an Cooperator's staff associated with the project are contacted by the regulator or media, they shall direct such inquiries to the 11 Air Force Public Affairs office on JBER.

## **7.0 WORK SITE CONDITIONS**

Coordinate work site activities to ensure the protection of human health and the environment; the prevention of damage to property, utilities, materials, supplies, and equipment; and the avoidance of work interruptions. The Cooperator shall comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety and health regulations and local safety office requirements. The Cooperator is required to provide the USACE with copies of any OSHA report(s) submitted during the duration of the period of performance.

## **8.0 LOGISTICS**

The Cooperator shall be responsible for all logistic and travel costs associated with travel to King Salmon Airport. The Cooperator is required to bring or contract their own transportation if they lack transportation in or near King Salmon. Prior to travel to the installation, the Cooperator shall populate and submit Reference C to the Air Support Squadron (ASUS). The Cooperator is responsible for providing all information requested by the ASUS and its installation visitor review process. The Cooperator is responsible for reviewing the content of Reference B and utilizing this information for logistics planning.

## **9.0 SPATIAL DATA AND MAPPING REQUIREMENTS**

All mapping products and the digital files used to generate the maps required by this SOW shall adopt the format and requirements described by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center within Reference E. The digital GIS files shall be provided to the government simultaneous with submission of the final report and submitted to the PRSC on a CD or DVD.

## **10.0 DELIVERABLE SCHEDULE**

Deliverable Title	Submission Schedule
Draft Work Plan	Submitted to the government within 21 calendar days of award.
Final Work Plan and Response to Comment Matrix	Submitted to the government within 45 calendar days of award.
Draft Project Summary Report	Submitted to the government within 480 calendar days of award.
Final Project Summary Report and Response to Comment Matrix	Submitted to the government within 510 calendar days of award.
GIS Files on CD or DVD	Submitted to the government within 510 calendar days of award.
Option Task 5 Site Visit Report	Submitted to the government within 180 calendar days of Option Task 7 award.
Option Task 6 Site Visit Report	Submitted to the government within 180 calendar days of Option Task 8 award.

## 11.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance is 18 months from date of award.

## 12.0 POINTS OF CONTACT

The POC for USACE Project Management is Charis Cooper. Cooperative Agreement questions should be addressed to the Grants Officer, Olen Northern. Correspondence should be addressed as follows:

Charis Cooper  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Environmental & Special Projects Branch  
ATTN: CEPOA-EC-EE  
P.O. Box 6898  
JBER, AK 99506-0898  
Phone: (907) 753-5692  
Email: [charis.a.cooper@usace.army.mil](mailto:charis.a.cooper@usace.army.mil)

Olen Northern  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Contracting Division  
ATTN: CEPOA-CT  
P.O. Box 6898  
JBER, AK 99506-0898  
Phone: (907) 753-2525  
Email: [Olen.R.Northern@usace.army.mil](mailto:Olen.R.Northern@usace.army.mil)

The 611<sup>th</sup> CES Technical POC is Joel Helm. Routine correspondence should be via email when appropriate.

Joel Helm  
611<sup>th</sup> CES/CEI  
[joel.helm1@us.af.mil](mailto:joel.helm1@us.af.mil)  
907-552-5230

### **13.0 REFERENCES**

Reference A – King Salmon Airport Installation Boundary

Reference B – FY 20 King Salmon Base Support Letter

Reference C – FY 20 King Salmon SAR Form V2

Reference D – 2018 Journal of Wildlife Biology Format and Guidelines

Reference E – Air Force Civil Engineer Center GIS format requirements and guideline

**Proposal Submission Evaluation Criteria and Basis of Award  
611<sup>th</sup> CES**

**Management, Species, Bat Survey  
King Salmon Airport, AK**

The Government will evaluate technical proposals in accordance with the criteria described herein and award a Cooperative Agreement task order to the responsible grantee whose proposal is determined to represent the best overall value to the Government. The Government will not award a Cooperative Agreement to a grantee whose proposal contains a deficiency.

The evaluation factors for this action are:

- Factor 1, 40%: Experience (most important factor)
- Factor 2, 35%: Technical Approach (2<sup>nd</sup> most important factor)
- Factor 3, 25%: Cost (3<sup>rd</sup> most important factor)

The Government will assign an adjective rating of Outstanding, Good, Acceptable, Marginal, or Unacceptable to each technical factor which reflects the Government's confidence in each offeror's ability, as demonstrated in its proposal, to perform the requirements stated in the grant. The ratings shall be assigned, using the following criteria, which incorporate a proposal risk assessment:

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Adjectival Rating</b>	<b>Description</b>
4	Outstanding	Proposal indicates an exceptional approach and understanding of the requirements and contains multiple strengths.
3	Good	Proposal indicates a thorough approach and understanding of the requirements and contains at least one strength.
2	Acceptable	Proposal indicates an adequate approach and understanding of the requirements.
1	Marginal	Proposal has not demonstrated an adequate approach and understanding of the requirements or contains an element of risk.
0	Unacceptable	Proposal does not meet requirements of the solicitation and, thus, contains one or more deficiencies and is unawardable.

## **PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Cooperator shall be evaluated in accordance with the selection criteria below. The selection criteria are listed in descending order of importance.

### **Factor 1 Experience**

The Cooperator shall demonstrate prior project experience relevant to the attached SOW, completed within 7 years of the RFP, and other qualifications and technical competence in all of the following areas:

1. Experience conducting surveys and investigations to map, monitor and track bat species distribution, abundance, and activity.
2. Experience providing support to DoD natural resource programs in support of managing Species at Risk.
3. Experience planning and managing time critical work, performing studies, projects or plans in accordance with applicable guidance and regulations
4. Experience coordinating GIS natural resource data and other applicable data for geodatabase use.

The Cooperator shall provide examples of up to four (4) past projects of similar size, scope and complexity that best demonstrate the above qualifications. Submit projects that are at least 25% complete or were completed within the past five (5) years. The example project summaries shall be limited to one (1) page each. The example project summaries shall identify:

- Title/Subject
- Location
- Duration
- Brief description
- Roles and work self-performed
- Date project began and if completed
- Complexities or key accomplishments
- Client contact information

The Government will utilize the example project summaries to evaluate the capability and experience as a basis for comparing offerors to determine best value.

### **Factor 2 Technical Approach**

The Cooperator shall provide a brief narrative of their technical approach and a milestone schedule. The narrative shall be no more than 2 pages per main task and must include:

- A discussion of the technical approach to accomplish the performance work statement requirements, detailing number of hours anticipated to complete the project deliverables.
- A discussion of the quality assurance, quality control, and other technical activities that will be implemented to ensure that quality data are collected to support project data quality objectives
- A discussion of applicable regulatory requirements and how project requirements will be implemented.

- A discussion of all assumptions.

The Cooperator shall also provide an organizational chart with the proposed project team with defined roles, responsibilities, and lines of communication for all key personnel and sub-cooperators.

The evaluation standard has been met when the Cooperator demonstrates an understanding of the work that adequately addresses the task order requirements. The inclusion of numerous assumptions that significantly “assume away” Cooperator risk with regard to major issues or problems that may be encountered on the project will be considered unacceptable.

### **Factor 3      Cost**

Provide proposed cost to the government. Allowable costs incurred by institutions of higher education is determined in accordance with the provision of OMB Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions," ONR negotiated rates, and institutional policies. OMB's cost principles are contained in 2 CFR 200.400-.475 et seq.

Cost is considered less important than non-cost factors and will be evaluated for fairness and reasonableness per OMB cost principles. If more than one proposal are rated as having equal non-cost factors, the lowest cost tender of the proposals received would be granted as the preferred tender unless there are extraordinary reasons for not doing so.