



Homeland
Security

December 8, 2006

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

On behalf of the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), I would like to again congratulate you and your consortium on entering the next phase of review in DHS's site selection process to identify a future location for the proposed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). Your consortium's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] merited continued consideration by DHS based on the assessment of your submittal as evaluated against the evaluation criteria (Research Capabilities, Workforce, Acquisition/Construction/Operations, and Community Acceptance). This evaluation criteria was identified in DHS's notice of request for Expression of Interest ("EOI") submissions published on the Federal Business Opportunities website in January 17, 2006 and the Federal Register on January 19, 2006 (the "Notice of Request").

The purpose of this letter is to: (1) Request additional information to complete the next phase of the evaluations; (2) Communicate DHS's preferences for certain criteria; (3) Provide instructions on how to submit the requested information; and (4) Provide information on the next steps in the site selection process.

1. Additional Information Requested

As stated in DHS's Notice of Request, DHS reserved the right to request additional information and clarifications from consortia whose submissions were deemed worthy of further consideration based on DHS's evaluation of their EOI submissions. DHS is requesting additional information within each of the four evaluation criteria to supplement the information already received in the original EOI submissions. The evaluation committee will assess the strengths, weaknesses, deficiencies, and risks for the additional information submitted. Submissions that identify attributes which correspond with the high priority criteria shown in Section 2 of this letter will be rated more favorably than submissions that do not. The specific additional information requested is listed in the attachment to this letter.

2. DHS Preferences

DHS will give strong preference to the following criteria in the next phase of the evaluation (listed in no particular order of importance):

- The proposed site is within a comprehensive research community that has existing research programs in areas related to the NBAF mission requirements (veterinary, medical and public health, and agriculture).
- The proposed site is within proximity to skilled research and technical staff with expertise in operations conducted at biological and agricultural research facilities. The proposed site is within proximity to training programs to develop skilled research and technical staff with the needed expertise.
- The title to the proposed minimum 30 acre site would be deeded at no cost or minimal cost to the Federal Government (in-kind contribution, sale, or quit claim). DHS would be able to construct the entire NBAF (BSL-3 and BSL4 laboratories) at the 30 acre site.
- In-kind contributions [e.g., deeded land at no cost rather than sale, new utility provisions and/or upgrades (e.g., sewer, electricity, water, chilled water, steamed water, etc.), and new roadways] would be offered to DHS (by the consortium, state government, local government, or private entities).
- The proposing consortium demonstrates that the consortium itself, or other organizations within proximity to the site, will assist DHS in the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process to conduct the environmental analysis at the proposed site.
- The proposing consortium demonstrates that local and national agriculture stakeholder community members (e.g., local and national agricultural associations) support or, at a minimum, do not oppose locating the NBAF at the proposed site.

3. Instructions for Submission of Requested Information

Your additional information submission must be **postmarked by February 16, 2007** (please submit to: Department of Homeland Security, Attn: Glynis Fisher/Science and Technology Directorate/ Office of Procurement Operations, Anacostia Naval Annex, 245 Murray Lane SW, Bldg. 410, Washington, DC 20528). For FEDEX, UPS, and DHL deliveries please use the mail room phone number 202-772-9747. **Submissions which are postmarked on or after February 17, 2007 will not be considered.** Each submittal (with full contact information: name, address, phone, fax, and email) should consist of an original plus 14 photocopies. DHS also requests that the submittal include an electronic version of all materials, preferably in PDF format. Faxed or emailed submissions will not be accepted.

The length of your submission (to include the information requested by DHS in Section 1 and the corresponding attachment of this letter) should be no more than 20 pages using 12 point font. Maps, census or chamber of commerce data, applicable sections of existing plans and studies, permits and baseline surveys, and the media coverage appendix, will not count against page limit and should be put in an appendix. Your submission should be bullet/answer formatted to reference the information DHS has requested with your consortium's response.

If your consortium believes that it has already adequately addressed certain information requested in this letter, please respond to the particular information request with a reference to the page number(s) in your original EOI submission. Please note that all additional information submitted

should relate to the site proposed in your consortium's original EOI submission (e.g., no consortium may propose alternative sites at this point in DHS's selection process).

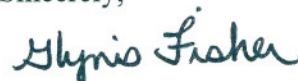
If your submittal contains information that is privileged or confidential, the appropriate portions of the submission should be marked "Proprietary Information." This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use or disclose data without restriction from any source including the submitter. DHS is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of this additional information. DHS's further consideration of this additional information does not obligate DHS to provide funds or enter into contractual relationships with submitters. DHS reserves the right to obtain information about your proposed site from other sources (e.g., third parties which may be hired by DHS to perform environmental due diligence, public records, and media reports) and DHS may factor any such information into its evaluation of your site.

4. Next Steps in the Site Selection Process

Upon the completion of the evaluation of the additional information, DHS will schedule site visits for all 14 consortia (18 sites). The intent of the site visits will be to: (1) verify the information provided and representations made in the EOI submissions and additional information submitted; and (2) enable evaluation committee representatives to view any observable physical conditions and constraints at the proposed site and, if applicable, view the site's utilities and infrastructure. The site visits are scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2007. After the site visits, a small number of potential NBAF sites will be selected for which an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared. This selection will be completed by June 2007. The actual site upon which the NBAF will be built will be determined after the completion of the EIS which is scheduled for no later than October 2008.

On behalf of the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, I congratulate you and your consortium on entering the next phase of review in this process. DHS anticipates that the NBAF will play an important role in the enhancement and defense of the country's agriculture and public health and greatly appreciates your consortium's desire to participate in this vital mission.

Sincerely,



Glynis Fisher
Contracting Officer
Office of Procurement Operations
Science and Technology Acquisitions Division

ATTACHMENT: 1. Requested Additional Information

Requested Additional Information

DHS requests an additional information package that will provide a greater level of detail to your consortium's original EOI submission. All further evaluations will be based on the additional information requested below in conjunction with the previous twenty page EOI submission. In order to ensure that all remaining consortium have an equal opportunity to provide this information, DHS is requesting the following additional information from each consortium (please submit in a bullet/answer format; if your consortium believes that it has already adequately addressed certain information requested below, please reference the page number(s) in your original EOI submission):

A. Research Capabilities:

- Describe the research environment related to the NBAF mission requirements within proximity of the proposed site with examples of formal mechanisms of exchange between the veterinary, agricultural, and public health communities.
- Provide information on vaccine industry capabilities, agricultural research programs, and existing animal disease research programs relevant to the NBAF mission that are in proximity to the site. Include information about such programs' specific expertise related to BSL3/4 laboratories, if any.

B. Workforce:

- Provide additional data on workforce availability, sustainability and capabilities with respect to scientists who are acknowledged leaders in medical/veterinary/agriculture research relevant to the NBAF mission.
- Provide information on recruiting opportunities for research and technical staff
- Provide information on the local workforce with respect to mechanisms for training (e.g., community college programs), availability, and sustainability for laboratory support staff (workers/technicians/animal handlers) with experience related to the NBAF mission, including:
 - * Experience with biosurety/biosafety requirements
 - * Engineers and maintenance workers familiar with HVAC systems needed to support biocontainment laboratories/facilities
 - * Experience in the workforce with ordering/evaluating/handling large animals for research
 - * Experience with modern training techniques and equipment

C. Acquisition/Construction/Operations:

- Describe whether title to your proposed site would be deeded to the Federal Government (in-kind contribution, sale, or quit claim) and under what terms.
- Describe whether your consortium has the legal authority to deed or sell the proposed site to the Federal Government or whether your consortium is relying upon another entity to deed or sell the proposed site to the Federal Government. If your consortium

is relying upon another entity for a proposed land transfer to the Federal Government, please include a letter from such entity to that effect.

- If there is an offer to deed or sell the proposed site to the Federal Government (from your consortium or another entity) please state whether there is an expiration date on the offer bearing in mind that the actual site upon which the NBAF will be built will be determined after the Government's completion of an EIS on several potential sites.
- Describe any in-kind contributions [e.g., deeded land at no cost rather than sale, new utility provisions and/or upgrades (e.g., sewer, electricity, water, chilled water, steamed water, etc.), and new roadways] and the sources of those funds or contributions. Specific information regarding utility and infrastructure provisions should be stated (amount of steam, chilled water, distilled water to be provided).
- Provide maps (GIS format preferred) that show political boundaries (including Congressional districts), communities (especially minority, low income or Native American); roads, railroads, airports, site capability to build, and location of the potential site in relation to water bodies, parkland or other environmentally sensitive areas; and locations of all required utilities relative to the site. Maps will be used to evaluate the suitability of the site with respect to community and environmental impacts, accessibility and utility provisions.
- Provide information on the existing capacity and forecasted demand on the required utilities. Also note any improvements to utility capacity and/or reliability planned for the future. Additional information on utilities not specifically addressed as NBAF requirements (e.g., data networks/telecommunications) is also welcome.
- Provide all existing documentation applicable to the Acquisition/Construction/Operations evaluations factors; i.e., that supports the feasibility to build NBAF in the area including: Boundary Surveys, Real Estate Appraisals; Area Master Plans; Economic Development Studies; Traffic Management/Transportation Plans; Land Use Plans; Permits; Applicable Zoning laws and regulations; Environmental baseline surveys and past environmental assessments of the site (if any); Title searches; Liens or encumbrances on the site; Cultural Resource Studies; Floodplain documentation; Site/Geotechnical Studies; Hydrological Studies and/or Wetlands Determinations.
- Describe future economic development plans for the area within 30 miles of the proposed site. Describe how future economic expansion plans will complement or compete with the resources that a facility such as the NBAF would require (e.g., water supplies, utility availability, etc.).
- Provide census, chamber of commerce, or other data showing the availability of construction workers and sub-contractors. Address the availability of skilled workers to construct biocontainment facilities.

D. Community Acceptance:

- Describe the extent to which your consortium will be able to assist DHS in the NEPA process to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on your proposed site (e.g., assist DHS in coordinating community outreach meetings and educating the public on what DHS proposes to do with the facility).

- Describe any known public opposition to the NBAF, and plans for the consortium to manage the opposition. Please provide any information on media coverage, including media coverage since March 31, 2006. Information on media coverage may be an appendix to your submittal which does not count against the 20 page limitation discussed in the letter above.
- Demonstrate support and engagement from the affected agriculture stakeholder community to locate the NBAF at your proposed site. Describe your consortium's short and long-term plans to engage and inform the local, state, and national agriculture stakeholder community.
- Describe your consortium's short and long-term plans to coordinate community outreach and advocacy for the NBAF project.