

January 30, 2012

Spaceport Questions and Answers for the Southern Road Environmental Analysis RFP #12-495-00-00289

Q1. Section V. Evaluation – Should each of the bulleted evaluation factors be addressed within each of the scope of work items listed in A. Evaluation Summary, or should each of the bulleted evaluation factors be addressed separately following our approach to the scope of work items?

A: Either is acceptable.

Q2. Section V. Evaluation – Section 2. Experience and Capabilities requests that resumes be included in proposal Section #1 Technical. Can we provide brief bios for our key staff in Section #1 and include full resumes in Section #3 Supporting Documentation, without losing points, so as long as we reference their location in Section #3?

A: Yes.

Q3. Section V. Evaluation – Section 2. Experience and Capabilities requests that all required Federal and State permits be included in proposal Section #1 Technical. Can we provide the Federal and State permits in Section #3 Supporting Documentation, without losing points, so as long as we reference their location in Section #3?

A: Yes.

Q4. Are we to submit a total of nine (9) binders (three copies of each proposal section), or a total of three (3) binders containing proposal Sections 1-3?

A: Proposers should submit three binders. Each binder should contain the full proposal – i.e., three tabbed sections.

Q5. Will tabs and front/back covers be included in the page limits?

A: No.

Q6. The Proposal Format in the RFP (p. 16) specifies a 30-page limit to the Technical Proposal. Later, the specifications for the Technical Proposal require resumes for each designated individual (p. 21). Although it is not stated explicitly, we assume that you expect the full resumes to be located within Section 3 Supporting Documentation (also NTE 30 pages). Is this assumption correct?

A: Yes.

Q7. Will the southern roadway draft cultural report be available for viewing during the completion of this proposal?

A: No.

Q8. Concerning the 100 acres of aggregate source and associated access locations, have these two areas been relatively determined? If so, is there a map available of their relative locations?

A: The locations have not been determined. Every effort is being made to identify an aggregate source to the east or west of the Southern Road route to reduce transportation costs.

Q9. As stated on page 39, second paragraph from the top, last sentence, the project will also analyze an alternate route east of the existing road near Rincon Arroyo. Will the exact location and alignment of this alternative route be available for proposal completion? Have there been environmental surveys conducted along this route? If not, will these surveys also be included within this proposal?

A: No map is available. The approximate location is in Sections 11 and 12 of T18S, R2W. Cultural and biological surveys have not yet been completed of this potential alternate route. These surveys are not included as part of the scope of work for this RFP.

Q10. For the EA/FONSI Task, has BLM or NMSA prepared a draft DOPAA? Specifically, how many alternatives beyond the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative are anticipated to be analyzed in detail? The SOW makes reference to an alignment of 23.4 miles with an alternate route to the east for a portion (approximately 2 miles). Is this 2-mile portion a branch or fork off of the main 23.4 mile stem?

A: No DOPAA has been prepared. It is currently anticipated that the EA will analyze the proposed action (23.4 miles), an approximately 2-mile re-route off of the main route located at Rincon Arroyo, and the no action alternative.

Q11. Is the Public Scoping Meeting described in paragraph 3.2 intended to occur prior to development of the EA and potentially shape the alternatives and resource areas to be analyzed, or is it intended as an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft EA after its release for public comment.

A: It is a scoping meeting, thus is intended to occur prior to development of the EA.

Q12. May the results of the viewshed impact study and the archeological investigations noted in paragraphs 3.3.1 and 3.3.2, respectively, be combined in one report or do you wish them to be stand-alone reports?

A: Each proposal should explain and substantiate that firm's approach.

Q13. Can a map of the right-of-way be provided?

A: A map showing the proposed route is attached.

Q14. What stage of road design has been completed, and when will it be available?

A: Road design is expected to be complete in April 2012.

Q15. Will the Biology Report include the aggregate source locations (surveyed by the Contractor) as well as the project area as a whole (data provided by NMSA)?

A: NMSA has already completed biological survey of the proposed road and is preparing a report of that survey. As explained in the RFP, the Contractor is expected to conduct biological survey of the aggregate sources and prepare a report of the results.

Q16. If Section 7 consultation is required, would a cost amendment be approved?

A: Any change in cost will be negotiated with the Contractor.

Q17. If a notifying Nationwide Permit 14 is needed, would a cost amendment be approved?

A: Any change in cost will be negotiated with the Contractor.

Q18. It was noted that cultural resource studies had already been completed. Who conducted the studies (surveys) and when have they been completed?

A: The Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS), a subdivision of the Museum of New Mexico, conducted the cultural resource survey of the proposed road route. The draft report is currently in preparation by OAS.

Q19. Are the previous survey reports available?

A: No.

Q20. Will visual simulations be required for the Visual Trail Study? If so, what specifications will be used and what size study area will be required for the viewshed analysis?

A: The Contractor should describe and justify their approach in the proposal.

Q21. In the list of deliverables, a “viewshed impact study report” is noted. Is this expected to be technical report that would be limited to the trail study or should it include all visual resources affected by the project?

A: This report is expected to be the report of analysis described in Section 3.3.1 of the RFP. Assessment of visual resource impacts for other resources, as required by BLM, is expected to be contained within the EA.

Q22. Will Trail segments be field-checked for this project?

A: The Contractor should describe and justify their approach in the proposal.

Q23. Please confirm if the 30-page limit for the Technical proposal includes the resumes?

A: No. Resumes go in Section 3.

Q24. Is there a preferred font size for the text of the proposal and for the tables/charts?

A: No, but typically 11 or 12 is used.

Q25. Has a noise study (listed on page 40) been completed or should we include a scope for a noise study?

A: No noise study has been completed. The Contractor should describe and justify their approach for assessing resource impacts in the proposal.

Q26. Are the files on the previous work, Cultural Reports, Biological report and the General files on work with BLM to date, available for review at the Spaceport America offices, BLM or their consultants?

A: This information will be provided to the selected Contractor. It will not be available prior to the due date for proposals.

Q27. What is the status of NMDOT in the review process for the EA? Will it be a reviewing agency? Will it or should it be included on the stakeholder list?

A: The proposed project does not include modification to any NMDOT facilities or right-of-way, thus they are not expected to be a reviewer. Development of the stakeholder list will occur during scoping.

Q28. We assume that we will be getting review comments on work products from Spaceport America, BLM and Dona Ana County. Will we receive those as a consolidated review package and, if not, who will be responsible for resolving any conflicting comments.

A: To the extent possible, comments will be delivered together. The Consultant will work with NMSA to resolve any conflicting comments with BLM and DAC.

Q29. Related to Question #26, have all the agencies agreed to accept the BLM format for the EA to avoid having to prepare multiple EA documents?

A: BLM is the lead agency for compliance with NEPA, thus the document will conform to BLM standards. There are no other federal agencies with “actions” associated with this project.

Q30. Are preliminary road plans available for review at Dona Ana County?

A: No. See attached map which shows the route.

Q31. Is there a percentage of work performed by New Mexico firms that is tied to the points given?

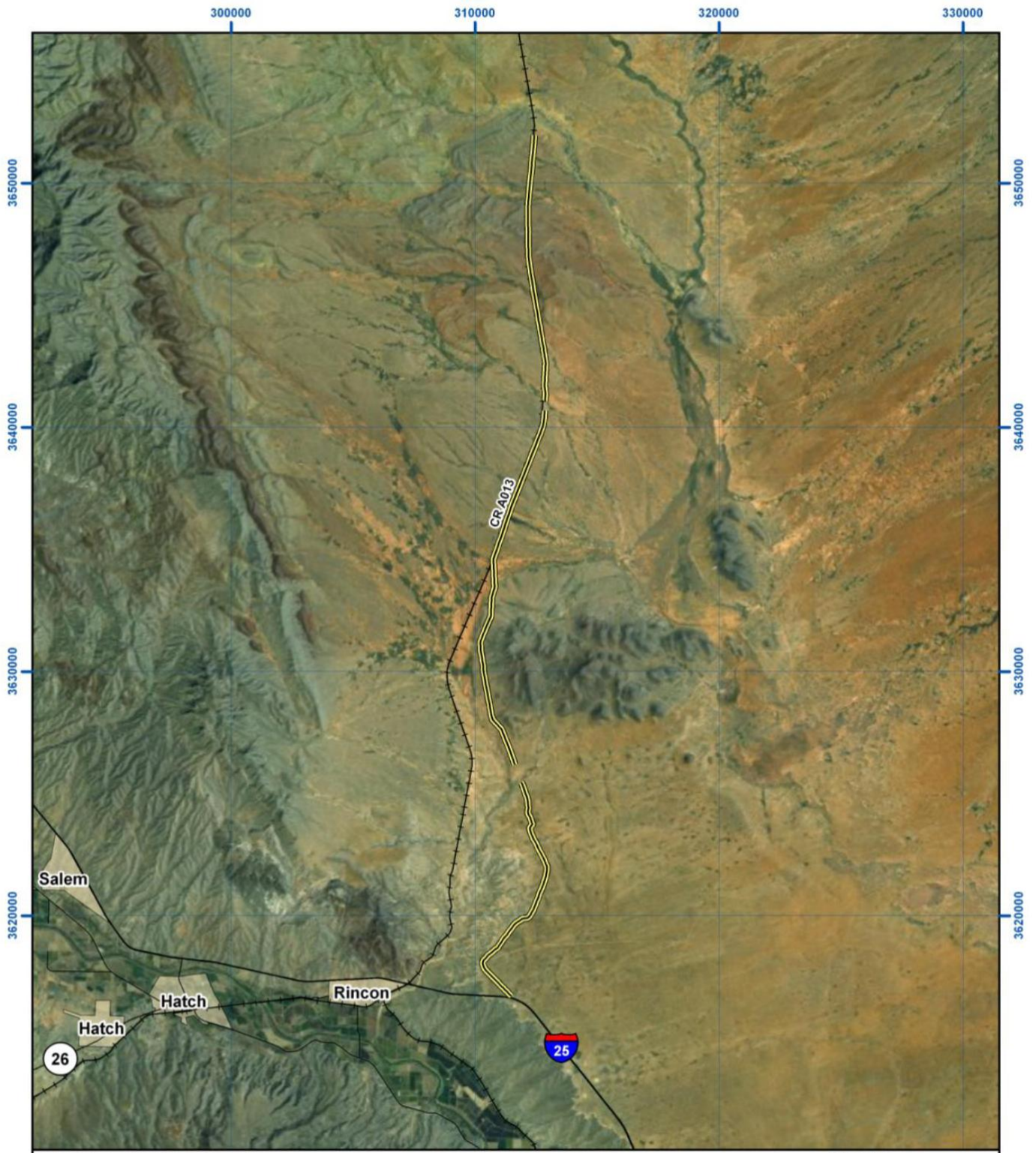
A: 100% of work by NM firms will receive the full 50 points. Points will go down from there.

Q32. Regarding the 30-page limit for Section # 1-Technical proposal (sec. III, pg.16); are resumes for key personnel counted towards that page limit?

A: No. Resumes go in Section 3.

Q33. Did the completed Cultural and Biological resources survey include the Alternate Route at Rincon Arroyo (sec. 2.2 pg. 39; sec. 3.3 -3.4, pg. 41-42)?

A: This alternate route is currently being designed. The contractors currently performing cultural and biological surveys of the main route will survey the alternate route when the design is completed.



Southern Road Proposed Project Route