**Request for Information (RFI)**

**for**

**NAVWARHeadquartersMKTSVY17974A NATO IMPROVED LINK ELEVEN TRAINING CONTRACT**

**Questions and Answers**

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| **Question Number** | **Question** | **Answer** |
| **#1** | Is there is an incumbent contract or contractor associated to the requirement. If any, please provide the contractor's name and contract number. | This RFI is for market survey purposes to identify potential sources for the subject training requirement. There are no incumbent contractors that provide all of these services at this time. |
| **#2** | “The Government Furnished Information (GFI) necessary for the training course is protected under ITAR regulations and is Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI),  categories Controlled Technical Information (CTI), Export (EXPT), and International (INTL).”  Executing a training is a transfer of above mentioned, protected information to the attendees.  Who is responsible to provide authorization for third party transfer of above protected information to training attendees?  How is authorization for third party transfer of above protected information to training attendees provided? | The vendor is responsible for seeking a Third Party Transfer approval from the US Department of State to enable the vendor to transfer the information to non-NILE Nation attendees in the form of training in performance of this contract. The RFI lists countries that are eligible to attend Link 22 training, either by virtue of their status as either a NILE Nation or a NILE Partner Nation. As new nations are added, the vendor will be required to work with the US Department of State to obtain Third Party Transfer approval for the new nation, to ensure all nations are included. |
| **#3** | Is training schedule per year on call / on demand or guaranteed?  If training schedule per year is guaranteed, how many years are minimum guaranteed?  What is the maximum number of training attendees? | Training courses will be executed at Task Order level on a single award IDIQ contract. The Government anticipates awarding an initial Task Order for one classroom-based course, and one online course that will be available for the first contract year. This is subject to change, and the number of on call/on demand courses per year is not guaranteed.  The planned contract is anticipated to have a one year base and four one-year option years. Thus the number of training schedule years after the first year are not guaranteed.  The RFI states that the classroom-based course should be suitable for up to 50 attendees. |
| **#4** | Are you able to provide any existing training program documents as example to us? e.g.:  - All-over default trainings program time schedule for one year showing the different kind of Link 22 training courses, duration and number of trainees  - Expected content (header /keywords) for each type of training course  - Expected length / duration / quantity of trainees for each type of training course | The Government will provide existing training documentation to the successful Offeror as Government Furnished Information (GFI) at contract award. The vendor is encouraged to use its creativity to design and propose the training content that meets the learning objectives as outlined in the RFI, and as refined in greater detail in any future RFP. |
| **#5** | May we expect that the so-called “Link 22 Cloud” SW tool (created by NATO Communications and Information Agency) will be provided to us to simulate realistic network conditions (e.g. congestion effects, etc.) | No, the Government does not intend to provide Link 22 Cloud SW tool as GFI as part of this contract. If the vendor requires this tool to perform the contract, the associated cost should be included in the proposal. |
| **#6** | Please mention the PC hardware requirements to run the provided "SNC and NRS executable software" | SNC: PC with a processor speed of 1 GHz or better, RAM 512 MB or more  NRS: PC with a processor speed of 3 GHz or better, RAM 4GB or more.  The SNC has a Windows version and a Linux version. The Windows supported versions are Windows 7 and Windows 10; the Linux supported versions are Linux Red Hat 5.5 and 7.  The NRS software is only for Windows OS and the supported versions are Windows 7 and Windows 10. |
| **#7** | Please try to describe briefly the conditions for user rights, user licenses for each of the provided training tools and training materials?   * 1. e.g. are these SW licenses workplace or processor HW related,   2. how to deal with user rights / licenses for tools and documentation to be provided via online platform to the trainees?   3. What are the cost involved for using these training tools and materials? | The Government intends to issue NILE Block Cycle Release (BCR) 10 DVD (NILE Third Party version) and previous training materials as Government Furnished Information (GFI). This GFI will be issued with sufficient rights to allow the successful Offeror to create and host its own Link 22 training content without additional costs. |
| **#8** | Please explain what is meant by “Scenario Generator”? (Do we talk about the MLST3 tool and or the NCI Agency “Link 22 Cloud”?) | The Scenario Generator (SG) is a component of the NRS software. The SG is a collection of software tools for scenario development, test execution, data recording and data analysis, used to prepare, execute and analyze tests with the NRS. |
| **#9** | Are there any training scenarios existing, already created for the Scenario Generator that should be continued to be used for future Link 22 training? | See answer for Question #4, which also applies to existing SG training artifacts. |
| **#10** | Are there any specifications regarding the trainee performance records? (e.g. requirements of each individual user navy, sending its trainees, "pass quotas", ...)? | There are currently no performance record specifications, but the Government reserves the right to add requirements at the RFP stage. |
| **#11** | Who will defined such training course “pass” criteria? | The vendor is required to design the testing and pass criteria for the training courses. |
| **#12** | May we assume that all forefront organizational work before the training starts will be covered under responsibility of the NILE PMO? E.g.:   * Training program publishing, * training booking process * Training accounting and payment process * Distribution of trainees to the different courses, * Accommodation for trainees * Security checks for each person, applying for training participation * Screening of the entrance qualification requirements for each of the potential trainees for participation on Link 22 training | The Government will manage all pre-training administration including registration and screening, distribution of materials (produced and delivered by the vendor), and course logistical communications.  The Government will not be providing or booking accommodation for training course attendees; if required this will be up to the individual attendee. |
| **#13** | Will the final exam be approved or conducted by NILE PMO incl. handing-over of official Training Certificate (confirming that the trainee has passed training course) | The vendor is required to conduct all tests, examinations, etc. The vendor is required to provide the test/exam format to the Government for approval, before it is administered to course attendees.  The vendor will then provide the Government with a list of attendees that require a certificate. The vendor will generate the certificate and the Government will be responsible for issuing the certificates directly to the students. |
| **#14** | Will the Online Training Platform run under NATO or NILE-PMO responsibility?   * E.g. will this Link 22 Training Online Platform be a NATO or NILE-PMO platform? * In this case may we assume that the vendor will only be responsible for creation and maintaining of the Link 22 training content, made available at this platform? | The Online Training Platform will not be hosted on a NATO website. The actual hosting location is to be determined. In addition to creation and maintenance of Link 22 training content, the vendor will be required to identify/design the online training platform (website) for hosting its content. The vendor will also be responsible for setup and management of its proposed vendor website. |
| **#15** | In order to receive a proper feedback of the training content and quality, may we assume that the NILE PMO will send a supervisor participating for the first time running each kind of training course? (a kind of acceptance test) | Yes, the Government expects to send representatives to attend the first classroom based courses, and reserves the right to attend any course in order to perform quality audits. |
| **#16** | Please explain the definition of “Government Approval” (as per section 2.1). May we expect that The Vendor shall deliver all training material, training documentation, etc. to NILE PMO for approval? Meaning that the NILE PMO will play **The Government**al role for approving those documents and training materials as well as for provision of NRS SW and GFI to the Vendor? | Yes, the NILE PMO will approve these documents, and will provide the stated GFI. This will be done by the Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR), or the Contracting Officer. |
| **#17** | Please explain the different Data Safety Domains involved in handling the provided training documentation, tools and training content. Especially please explain data domain requirements for online portal hosted information | The online platform proposed by the Vendor must be authorized by the Government for use with Covered Unclassified Information (CUI) information, subcategories CTI, EXPT, and INTL. The successful Offeror will have a facility clearance that is sufficient to handle CUI of this nature. The RFP will address cybersecurity requirements more clearly. |
| **#18** | The vendor is responsible for seeking a Third Party Transfer approval from the US Department of State to enable the vendor to transfer the information to non-Participant attendees in the form of training in support of this contract.“  Attendees to training are human people.  What are non-Participant attendees?  Question here is on the attribute "non-Participant". | Please see the updated wording in the response to Q #2 |
| **#19** | According to website, PM/RSAT is responsible for Third Party Transfer approvals from the US Department of State.  According to website, it is understood that Third Party Transfer is a Government to Government (G2G) process.  An industry executing training is not a Government.  Can industry apply for Third Party Transfer approvals directly from PM/RSAT without involvement of a Government?  If yes, how can industry apply for Third Party Transfer approvals directly from PM/RSAT without involvement of a Government?  If no, which Government needs to be involved and how is this Government involved? | The process is not defined at this time but will be clarified upon a future solicitation. |
| **#20** | How are individual attendees to training covered by a Third Party Transfer approval?  Is this Third Party Transfer approval listing the names of the attendees?  If no, what kind of party/parties is this Third Party Transfer approval listing? | The process is not defined at this time but will be clarified upon a future solicitation. |
| **#21** | An individual applies for training attendance in advance to the date of training.  If the required Third Party Transfer approval for an individual is not present at the day of training, this individual cannot attend the training.  How long is the time frame to get the Third Party Transfer approval, counted from the day of application for the Third Party Transfer approval? | The Government cannot give a timeframe for the Third Party Transfer process or approval.  It should be appreciated the vendors should be able to generate a complete proposal to a future Link 22 training solicitation, if they choose to do so, even in the absence of a definitive TPT approval time frame. The vendor will be required to create and host the training. The Government, in consultation with NILE Participant nations, will determine who attends/has access to the training. |