

## SMD STANDARD AO TEMPLATE

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Updated September 29, 2008

#### **1. Why is SAIC the only contractor specifically precluded in the Standard AO Template from participating as a respondent to an AO?**

SAIC is under contract to NASA to provide evaluation services to NASA in support of the evaluation of AO proposals. The SAIC contract with NASA has a clause in it that precludes them from supporting AO proposals because they are providing evaluation services. Other contractors are used on a case-by-case basis to support evaluation; when they are used, they are also precluded from supporting proposals.

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#### **2. There is no discussion about or reference to Missions of Opportunity, which have been included in previous AOs, in the Standard AO Template. Are they no longer included? Will Missions of Opportunity now be part of the SALMON AO exclusively and does that affect the rate at which they appear?**

Community comment on AO Simplification strongly encouraged the removal of Missions of Opportunity from PI-led mission AOs because the requirements for a Mission of Opportunity proposal are substantially different than the requirements for a mission proposal. Current policy is that Missions of Opportunity will be solicited through SALMON, and that PI-led mission AOs will not solicit Missions of Opportunity. The rate at which Mission of Opportunity proposals can be solicited is budget driven, and that is independent of which AO is used. For instance, if the Explorer Program wants to solicit Missions of Opportunity at the same time as PI-led missions, then a SALMON program element appendix will be released at the same time as the Explorer AO.

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#### **3. Why are you requiring 50+ hardcopies of the proposal? Why not have electronic submissions? Why not have only a few hardcopies and an electronic version on CDs like the Department of Defense?**

This was discussed extensively at the AO Simplification Workshops and Town Hall Meetings with the proposing community. The hard truth is that (i) the limitations of NSPIRES would require us to limit electronically submit proposals to 20MB or less and (ii) many reviewers will print their own hardcopies of the proposals if they are only provided an electronic version. NASA heard many comments that, if a reviewer gets a hardcopy, the proposer wants to make sure it is high quality – as long as there will be hardcopies, the proposers want to create them. Although the number of hardcopy proposals required has not been reduced, a number of other changes were made to simplify the production and submission process.

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**4. Why is Section 1.2, NASA Safety Priorities, in the AO? It has no requirements and seems out of place.**

Section 1.2 is required to be in every NASA AO by NFS 1872.705.

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