

Request for Information (RFI) on the need for Analog Mapping Camera Calibration

Solicitation Number: G11PS00140

Agency: USGS

Office: Remote Sensing Technologies Project

Location: Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center

This is an announcement directing interested parties to the Department of Interiors Business Opportunities Web Page at <https://www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/> where details of a U.S. Geological Survey Request for Information (RFI) G11PS00140 may be viewed. The posted RFI contains a Synopsis, Background, Description and Questions. All Interested Parties are invited to submit Comments and Answers to this posted RFI.

Synopsis

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ONLY. THIS REQUEST IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN INVITATION FOR BIDS, A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, A SOLICITATION, A REQUEST FOR QUOTES, OR AN INDICATION THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTRACT FOR THE ITEMS CONTAINED IN THIS NOTICE. THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT REIMBURSE RESPONDENTS FOR ANY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SUBMISSION OF THE INFORMATION BEING REQUESTED OR REIMBURSE EXPENSES INCURRED TO INTERESTED PARTIES FOR RESPONSES.

Background & Description

This Request for Information (RFI) by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Land Remote Sensing (LRS) Program and the Remote Sensing Technologies (RST) Project seeks industry feedback on the operational feasibility of the USGS Optical Science Laboratory (OSL) located in Reston, Va. The Intention is to evaluate the future of Analog Mapping Camera Calibration.

The Remote Sensing Technologies (RST) Project operates the USGS OSL facility (Reston, VA.) and continues to provide calibration services for aerial film cameras used in mapping and related projects in a similar manner to the previous several decades. Currently, the USGS OSL is the only Analog Mapping Camera Calibration Facility of its type known to be operational today. The USGS has charged service fees covering the O&M costs since 1970's and as such is the only independent calibration facility that meets the requirements generally known in contracts for U.S. Government throughout the United States (U.S.) as well as for U.S. Government-sponsored aerial film camera work outside of the U.S. Each analog camera used in U.S. Government contracts has been required to have a valid USGS calibration report no more than three years old at the time of imaging. Based on this requirement, every government contracted operational film mapping camera has been obtaining the required calibration from the USGS OSL at least once every three years. Complete details pertaining to the USGS OSL film camera calibration background, requirements, services, and report of calibration examples are documented at the following web links, respectively;

http://calval.cr.usgs.gov/aerial/calval_osl/,
http://calval.cr.usgs.gov/aerial/calval_osl/specifications/,
http://calval.cr.usgs.gov/aerial/calval_osl/opticalcalservfees/, and
http://calval.cr.usgs.gov/aerial/calval_osl/calibration_reports/.

USGS is seeking industry feedback due to an awareness of multiple and simultaneous issues' pertaining to the continued operation of the OSL. Extensive communication with the aerial mapping community has resulted in an understanding that the continuing growth and adoption of digital camera technologies will eventually supersede and take over the current analog camera market share of aerial imagery acquisition. Secondly, USGS photographic inventories necessary for its analog, multi-collimator calibration process are dwindling and their replacement has become very difficult and expensive. As a result, the USGS OSL only has inventory and resources to operate for approximately two (2) years. Given this projection, USGS is requesting industry feedback on the impact of closing the OSL facility when the current inventory resources are depleted, estimated to be late in the year 2012.

USGS solicits industry's questions, comments, concerns, and ideas for the Government to consider relative to the seven (7) objective questions listed below.

Objectives/Questions

Objectives/Questions of this RFI include the following:

1. Do you, or your agency/company/business, have film mapping camera calibration requirements that could be provided by the OSL beyond September 2012? If so, briefly explain the estimated requirements?
2. Do you, or your agency/company/business, have film mapping camera calibration requirements that could be provided by the OSL beyond September 2016? If so, briefly explain the estimated requirements?
3. Do you know of an in situ camera calibration process that you could utilize as a replacement for the traditional OSL camera calibration method? If so, please provide contact information to discuss in situ calibration.
4. If the OSL stopped operation in the fall of 2012, what would be the impact to you, your agency/company/business, and industry? Please provide impact information such as additional cost and quantifiable benefits or losses if available
5. Do you foresee an industry solution or alternative for the operation of the OSL or a comparable calibration facility available beyond 2012? Are you aware of similar services starting up or planning to start up? If so, please provide contact information.
6. Do you foresee an industry solution or alternative to obtaining the information provided by the OSL Report of Calibration for film mapping cameras after the closure of the OSL?
7. Do you have any other comments on the OSL, the services they provide, or future operations?

Responses

This section contains all information required to submit a response. No additional forms, kits, or other materials are needed. USGS appreciates responses from all capable and qualified sources that meet the following format.

A non-proprietary one page 8.5" x 11" cover sheet should identify this RFI number & title, organization(s), responder's technical and administrative points of contact - including names, titles, postal address, phone and fax numbers, and email addresses.

Please submit documentation and comment on each of the seven (7) objective questions in a format of one (1) each 8.5' x11" page per objective question. Please clearly identify any critical comments. No telephone inquiries will be accepted. All inquiries (technical, contractual, administrative), questions, or clarifications of any kind must be submitted via email to the Contracting Officer (CO) listed below.

RFI responses are due via email to chieb@usgs.gov to Carolyn Hieb, Contracting Officer no later than 4:00 PM, Local Time (CST) Sioux Falls, SD, April 1, 2011.

Responses should be for general access by the Government. All material provided (responses, discussions, questions/answers, and other data) that is not related to competition sensitive or contractor proprietary material may be accessed by the Government. Any proprietary information submitted must be clearly and separately identified and marked and will be appropriately protected. The Government will NOT be responsible for any proprietary information not clearly marked.

Disclaimers and Notes

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a program or contractual solicitation. USGS is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of submissions or of the information received, or to provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted under this RFI.

In accordance with FAR 15.201(e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. Responders are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI. The Government intends to use the information received in response to this RFI for planning purposes for which a formal Request for Proposal may result. However, the Government will not award a contract directly on the basis of this RFI or to otherwise pay for the information solicited.

Contracting Officer:
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