

C3P Ashore (Battle Watch) RFQ #N0018926R3109 - Official Questions & Answers

1. Q: Can the government please confirm the page count required for the experience submission in step 1 is two pages, in view of the requirements stated in section L for past performance of 4 pages. "2.1.1 Step One Submission: Interested sources shall submit, on no more than two (2) single-sided pages, a description of their experience on prior contracts that they consider similar in size and scope to the Performance Work Statement (PWS).
 - A: The Step 1 capabilities statement is two pages.
2. Q: What are the current staffing plans employed by contractors at Battle Watch in terms of shifts, roles, and roles per shift?
 - A: The Government cannot provide incumbent staffing plans. Offerors should propose a technical solution that ensures all Performance Work Statement (PWS) requirements are met.
3. Q: Will the government define the roles to be staffed, and will they align with labor categories?
 - A: The PWS, Section 3.1, identifies the required role of "SEOC Operations Analysis Awareness Specialists." Offerors are responsible for proposing a labor mix and structure that meets all PWS requirements.
4. Q: Does the government have a mandatory minimum watch-floor staffing composition per shift (e.g., minimum headcount by tier or role for Day/Swing/Mid/Weekend rotations), or is the contractor permitted to propose an optimized shift model (such as an 8-hour, 12-hour, or modified Panama schedule) to ensure continuous 24/7/365 coverage?
 - A: The Government has not mandated a minimum staffing composition per shift. The Contractor is responsible for proposing and justifying a staffing model that ensures uninterrupted 24/7/365 coverage as required by the PWS.
5. Q: Will surge hours be priced under a separate T&M/Labor-Hour CLIN, or does the government expect surge capacity to be factored directly into the core Firm-Fixed-Price (FFP) CLIN?
 - A: There are no surge CLINs associated with this effort.
6. Q: For specialized Tier 3/SME operational or engineering support during non-business hours, does the government require physical on-watch presence in the watch center 24/7, or is a defined recall window (e.g., telephone response within 15 minutes, arrival within 60–90 minutes) acceptable?
 - A: The PWS requires the contractor to provide continuous 24/7 on-site coverage for the SEOC. The offeror's proposed solution should address all requirements outlined in the PWS.
7. Q: Can the government confirm the precise clearance level required for watchstanders (e.g., Top Secret with SCI eligibility)? In addition, will the government commit to a defined timeline for sponsoring crossover SCI indoctrinates upon award to ensure full operational staffing by Day 1 of the Period of Performance?
 - A: The required Facility Clearance Level is Secret, as stated in the RFQ. All contractor personnel must possess the requisite clearance level to perform their duties. The Government cannot guarantee timelines for security clearance processing.

8. Q: Given that access to sensitive intelligence systems is mandatory, what provisions or ramp-up grace periods will be granted if an incumbent or newly onboarded staff member's crossover/billet access encounters processing delays outside contractor control?
- A: The Contractor is responsible for providing fully qualified and cleared personnel to ensure uninterrupted performance from the start of the Period of Performance.
9. Q: What specific baseline technical and baseline certifications are required on Day 1 for each tier, and will the government grant a waiver window (e.g., 60–90 days) for environment-specific certifications?
- A: Offerors should refer to PWS Section 3.1.C, "Specific Skill Sets Required." The Government will not grant waivers for the minimum qualifications stated in the PWS.
10. Q: What is the planned duration of the phase-in/transition period (e.g., 30, 45, or 60 days), and does the government anticipate a period of dual-manning alongside incumbent operators to achieve formal watch-standing certification and qualification?
- A: The Period of Performance begins on 1 November 2026. The successful offeror is expected to assume full performance on that date. No phase-in period is contemplated.
11. Q: For continuous 24/7/365 watch posts, does the Government expect 100% full baseline staffing on all 11 recognized Federal Holidays (including any Executive Order-directed closures), or will watch post minimums be reduced to a skeleton crew on recognized holidays?
- A: The contractor is responsible for maintaining continuous, uninterrupted 24/7 watch coverage as stated in the PWS.
12. Q: Does the Government have a standardized annual productive work-hour assumption per Contractor FTE (e.g., 1,800, 1,880, or 1,920 productive hours/year) that all offerors should use to ensure an apples-to-apples cost evaluation, specifically accounting for the 11 Federal Holidays, standard leave, and mandatory annual SCIF security training?
- A: The Government does not mandate a standardized productive work-hour assumption. Offerors should propose a pricing structure that reflects their technical and management approach to meeting the FFP requirements.
13. Q: Under the FFP structure, does the Government expect the Contractor to maintain a dedicated relief pool ("hot bench") to backfill watch standers taking accrued leave surrounding Federal Holidays to prevent seat vacancies, or may the Contractor cross-utilize day-staff personnel to cover open holiday watches?
- A: Seat vacancies shall not occur – the Government will not direct the approach. If the offeror decides to have a dedicated relief pool as a part of their technical and management approach, they should address that in the bid.
14. Q: PWS Task 3.2. Section L, Volume I. Please confirm that the analytical functions identified in the existing PWS Section 3.1 constitute the full requirement and that references to a separate Task 3.2 should be disregarded.
- A: The reference to Task 3.2 in Section L is an administrative error. The full requirement is described in PWS Section 3.1, "SEOC Operations Analysis Awareness Specialists," which encompasses both situational awareness (watch-standing) and operations analyst support functions. This will be corrected in Amendment 1.

15. Q: Continuous Watch Staffing. Please confirm the minimum number of SEOC Operations Analysis Awareness Specialists required to be physically on station concurrently during each watch period.
- A: The Government will not be prescribing a minimum staffing level per shift. Offerors are responsible for proposing a staffing solution that ensures all requirements of the PWS are met.
16. Q: Five-Year Experience Requirement. PWS Section 3.1.C.1 requires "a minimum of five (5) years of combined experience..." Please confirm that this requirement applies to each individual SEOC Operations Analysis Awareness Specialist...
- A: The Government confirms the requirement applies to each individual proposed for the "SEOC Operations Analysis Awareness Specialist" role.
17. Q: Section A §1.3 states that the services are unclassified... while PWS §§6 and 9 state that the work is classified SECRET... Please confirm that the PWS and DD254 security and place-of-performance requirements control...
- A: The Government confirms the requirements of the PWS, and the DD-254 are controlling. The work requires a Secret clearance, and the primary place of performance is on-site at the SEOC.
18. Q: Section L requires quoters to address Task 3.1 and Task 3.2, but PWS Section 3 identifies only §3.1... Please confirm whether Task 3.2 is a separate PWS requirement.
- A: See the answer to question 14. The reference to Task 3.2 is an administrative error and will be corrected. The evaluated functional areas are both encompassed within PWS Section 3.1.
19. Q: Section L requires a price breakdown showing level of effort and price by labor category... Please confirm whether staffing and LOE are contractor-proposed and identify any minimum watch-floor staffing per shift...
- A: Staffing and Level of Effort (LOE) are to be proposed by the offeror. The Government is not prescribing a minimum staffing level or labor category structure.
20. Q: Section L requires a completed "Past Performance Information Form" ... but Section J lists only Attachment 1, DD254 Draft, and Attachment 2, QASP. Please provide the required Past Performance Information Form...
- A: Past performance form will be provided in Amendment 1.
21. Q: ...please confirm whether every watchstander must hold a final Secret clearance before performing an independent shift, or whether personnel with interim eligibility may perform restricted duties while excluded from COMSEC access.
- A: All personnel must possess the final requisite clearance level to perform all duties as described in the PWS.
22. Q: Attachment 1 is marked DRAFT... Please confirm that a final DD254 tailored to solicitation N0018926R3109... will be issued...
- A: A Final DD254 tailored to the solicitation and resultant task order will be issued.
23. Q: The PWS requires a Transition Plan within 14 days after task order award... Please identify the expected transition/phase-in period...

- A: The Period of Performance begins on 1 November 2026. The successful offeror is expected to assume full performance on that date. No phase-in period is contemplated.
24. Q: The QASP includes a Contractor Quality Control Plan... Please confirm whether a Contractor Quality Control Plan is required after award...
- A: A Contractor Quality Control Plan (QCP) will be required as a post-award deliverable. The specific due date and content requirements will be provided to the successful offeror upon award.
25. Q: Are Situational Awareness Support (watch-standing) and Operations Analyst Support expected to be performed concurrently by the same personnel...
- A: Offerors should propose a technical solution and staffing model that best meets the requirements as stated in PWS Section 3.1.
26. Q: May properly qualified relief personnel work intermittent hours without being proposed as full-time FTEs, provided all labor is included within the FFP?
- A: Yes.
27. Q: Must every proposed individual possess a final Secret clearance at the start of performance, or may individuals with interim eligibility perform non-COMSEC duties pending final adjudication?
- A: See the answer to question 21. All personnel must possess the final requisite clearance.
28. Q: Approximately what proportion of monthly/quarterly analytical work does the Government anticipate approving for off-site performance?
- A: This will be at the discretion of the COR post-award. For pricing purposes, offerors should assume all work is performed on-site unless otherwise specified in the PWS.
29. Q: Is any phase-in overlap contemplated before 1 November 2026?
- A: No.
30. Q: PWS Section 7 states that the Contractor must obtain Government approval prior to working weekly or total hours in excess of those awarded... please define the 'awarded' weekly and total labor-hour levels...
- A: Section 7 will be revised from the PWS in Amendment 1
31. Q: Please clarify whether the Government will conduct a price realism analysis...
- A: A cost realism will not be conducted. However, a price analysis will.
32. Q: If the Government performs a price realism analysis, will any probable or evaluated price adjustment be made solely for evaluation purposes, or will the Government require adjustment of the quoter's proposed FFP before award?
- A: Please see the answer to question 31.
33. Q: Section L requests a breakdown of level of effort and price by labor category. Please clarify the minimum required elements of the Volume II price narrative.
- A: Offerors should provide sufficient detail to demonstrate their pricing is fair and reasonable, and aligns with their proposed technical solution. At a minimum, this should include labor categories, hours, and fully burdened rates.

34. Q: ...May quoters propose multiple labor categories or experience levels... or does the Government expect all direct labor to be proposed under a single labor category?
- A: Offerors may propose the labor category structure that best aligns with their proposed technical solution and management approach.
35. Q: Should on-site/off-site management, scheduling, quality control, monthly reporting, and other contract-management labor be separately identified... or should all such effort be included in the pricing of the operational labor categories?
- A: This is at the offeror's discretion, as long as the proposed pricing is clear and maps to the proposed technical solution.
36. Q: Will the resultant Travel and ODC NTE amounts equal the Government-provided estimates plus the successful quoter's proposed indirect burdens, or are the Government-provided dollar amounts themselves intended to be the NTE ceilings?
- A: They will equal the government provided amounts.
37. Q: For source-selection purposes, please confirm that every quoter will be evaluated using the Government-provided Travel and ODC estimates plus each quoter's applicable indirect burdens...
- A: The government will evaluate the total proposed price and non-price submission and will make an award to the firm that provides the best value to the government.
38. Q: Is the potential six-month extension under FAR 52.217-8 already represented by CLIN 5001, or may the Government exercise an additional extension beyond CLIN 5001?
- A: CLIN 5001 is the 6-month extension.
39. Q: The Transition Plan is due 14 days after task-order award. Please clarify whether any pre-performance transition... occurring before 1 November 2026 is compensable...
- A: No costs incurred prior to the Period of Performance start date of 1 November 2026 are compensable.
40. Q: Section L states that subcontractors shall email unsanitized price build-up directly to the Government. Please clarify the required contents and format...
- A: The unsanitized subcontractor price build-up should contain sufficient detail for the Government to assess the reasonableness of the proposed costs. This typically includes direct labor rates, indirect rates, and profit/fee.
41. Q: Will the Battle Watch FFP CLINs be invoiced in twelve equal monthly installments, or based on another payment schedule?
- A: FFP CLINs will be invoiced in 12 month installments.
42. Q: Section B lists the Battle Watch CLIN quantity as 12 Months. Should the Unit Price field contain the monthly FFP and the Amount equal twelve times that monthly amount, or should the full annual FFP be entered as the unit price/amount?
- A: The period of performance is for one year of services at a time and will be broken down into twelve equal monthly quantities.

43. Q: Will the Government please confirm the SOW for the previous contract cited in Section A required continuous support for 12 hours/day (0600–1800) and the current SOW increases that to 24/7 (0600-0600) watch coverage?

- A: The instant contract will be for 24/7 coverage per the SOW.

44. Q: Sections L and M direct quoters to address two functional areas: “Task 3.1...” and “Task 3.2...” However, Section C describes only Task 3.1. ...Can the Government provide the scope, duties, and skill requirements for Task 3.2, or confirm it is the same position as Task 3.1?

- A: This is an administrative error and will be corrected via amendment. The full scope of work is contained within PWS Section 3.1.