

Request for Information (RFI) / Sources Sought

7th Fleet Contractor Welding Procedure Qualification & Sustained Capability Program

Notice Type: Request for Information (RFI) / Sources Sought

Title: 7th Fleet Welder Qualification and Sustained Capability Program

Agency/Office: Department of the Navy / NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Command Yokosuka Site
Singapore

Response Due Date: 15 November 2026 at 10:00AM SGT

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1. Introduction and Purpose

This is a Request for Information (RFI) / Sources Sought notice. This announcement is published for market research and planning purposes only and does not constitute a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Quotation (RFQ).

The Department of the Navy is issuing this RFI to identify sources interested in and qualified to fulfill a capability gap for welding to support ship repair and maintenance located within the 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR), excluding Hawaii.

The Government intends to evaluate capabilities and draft plans to determine the feasibility of awarding Firm-Fixed-Price (FFP) contracts under FAR Part 12 (Acquisition of Commercial Products and Commercial Services). This RFI provides industry with the opportunity to review the draft requirements, propose tentative technical approaches, and provide high-level pricing and performance timelines.

The Government is specifically seeking capability statements and commercial market feedback from existing commercial ship repair facilities holding a Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) or Agreement for Boat Repair (ABR) operating within the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR).

2. Background and Objectives

The Regional Capability Gap: The operational availability, maintenance, and emergent voyage repair of U.S. Navy warships operating across the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans are vital to national security. A critical industrial bottleneck exists in the availability of regional commercial shipyards possessing corporate-level, certified Welding Procedure Specifications (WPS) approved for naval surface combatant maintenance and repair.

Procedure Qualification vs. Personnel Hiring: The Government's objective is **not** to directly hire welders, nor is it to operate an introductory training school. Rather, the Navy intends to co-invest with commercial ship repair facilities to support the qualification and demonstration of the contractor's organizational welding procedures. Once qualified, the certified procedure remains the permanent asset of the contractor, establishing an enduring regional capability that can immediately be contracted to perform voyage repairs and structural alterations on U.S. Navy warships.

3. Technical Baseline (Local Work Template 042-001)

Offerors must demonstrate the capability to execute and complete qualifications in strict compliance with Local Work Template (LWT) 042-001 (Rev 31 OCT 2025), *Standard Welding Procedure Specification for Naval Applications; Procure and Demonstrate*.

4. DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK & CORE TASKS

Under any future solicitation, the contractor will be required to execute a Firm-Fixed-Price (FFP) plan accomplishing three primary tasks:

Task 1: Welding Procedure Preparation, Demonstration, and Testing

The Contractor shall establish and demonstrate an organizational Welding Procedure Specification (WPS) in accordance with Appendix C of NAVSEA S9074-AQ-GIB-010/248 Rev 1 and LWT 042-001. Specific requirements include:

- **Prerequisite Submittals:** Submit English-language documentation of the following to NAVSUP FLC Contracting/Supervisor for review and acceptance prior to striking an arc: 1. Commercially qualified all-position SMAW welder performance qualifications, annual eye exam, records of performance of SMAW process within the last 6 months, NDT written practice, NDT procedures, and NDT Level II/III certifications).
- **Material Procurement:** Procure certified ABS Grade A steel plate and AWS A5.5 E7018-A1 electrodes, submitting all mil test reports and lot conformance certificates.
- **Test Assembly Machining:** Machine two test plates (1/2in × 7in × 15in) prepped to MIL-STD-22D Joint Design B2V.1 with non-thermally cut edges.
- **Weld Demonstration:** Provide formal 72-hour advance notice to the Government SUPERVISOR. Perform joint fit-up inspection, verify 3G vertical position, and execute the test weldment using in-house regular employees and contractor-owned welding equipment. Balanced welding technique must limit final angular distortion to less than 5°.
- **NDT Inspections:** Coordinate and NDT in accordance with Appendix C of NAVSEA S9074-AQ-GIB-010/248 Rev 1. Provide evaluated radiographs and records within 2 days of testing.

Task 2: Procedure Qualification Record (PQR) Certification & Spec Delivery

The Contractor shall record all actual welding parameters in accordance with Appendix C of NAVSEA S9074-AQ-GIB-010/248 Rev 1.

The Contractor shall compile, certify, and deliver a complete Procedure Qualification Record (PQR) package and signed AWS-NAVSEA B2.1-1-302:2015 WPS together with the completed Test and Inspection Verification Sheet (TIVS / Enclosure One) to the SUPERVISOR within 3 calendar days of work completion.

Task 3: Sustained Business & Availability Plan

The Contractor shall draft a comprehensive commercial business plan demonstrating how the company will maintain the active status of this NAVSEA-approved welding procedure and retain qualified in-house staff. The plan must detail:

- Workforce retention strategies and semi-annual qualification update processes in accordance with NAVSEA S9074-AQ-GIB-010/248 Rev 1.
- Commercial availability to respond to emergent U.S. Navy voyage repair requests on short notice.
- Supply chain reliability for procuring certified naval hull materials and consumables within the 7th Fleet theater.

4. Acquisition Strategy & Contract Structure

A. Non-Traditional Negotiation and Evaluation Process

- **Evaluation Methodology:** The technical evaluation of proposals received under any subsequent solicitation will not follow a rigid, traditional FAR Part 15 tradeoff process. Instead, proposals will undergo a specialized review by subject-matter experts focusing on:
 1. **Technical Merit & Feasibility:** The soundness, completeness, and realism of the proposed training, spec delivery, and business sustainability plan.
 2. **Corporate Experience:** The contractor's track record of successful welder training, naval ship repair, or similar operational setup.
 3. **Price:** Overall price reasonableness and value.

- **Individual Negotiations:** The Government reserves the right to negotiate proposals individually with offerors. These negotiations are not bound by typical FAR Part 15 procedural restrictions.
- **FAR Part 12 Awards:** The Government intends to award FAR Part 12 commercial contracts to those offerors whose proposals are deemed to meet the threshold for expert technical merit and for which funding is available.

B. Contract Line Item Number (CLIN) and Performance Structure

The subsequent contract will utilize a structured CLIN framework to mitigate performance risk:

- **Base CLIN (Qualification Phase):** Covers Task 1 (Welding Procedure Preparation, Demonstration, and Testing), Task 2 (Procedure Qualification Record (PQR) Certification & Spec Delivery), and Task 3 (Sustained Business & Availability Plan).
- **Option CLIN:** Provides an on-call execution mechanism for warship structural voyage repairs, exercisable only if the contractor's procedure is fully certified and accepted under the Base CLIN.

The Period of Performance (POP) for both the Base and Option phases will be based on timelines proposed by the contractor, which will be evaluated for feasibility and efficiency.

5. Requested Information (Capability Statement & Feedback)

Interested parties are requested to submit a response (not to exceed 10 pages) containing the following details:

Section I: Company Profile

1. Company Name, Address, and Website.
2. Point of Contact (Name, Title, Phone, and Email).
3. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), CAGE Code, and confirmation of active registration in SAM.gov.
4. Current Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) or Agreement for Boat Repair (ABR) number.
5. Business Size and Socioeconomic Status under NAICS code [Insert Anticipated NAICS Code, e.g., 336611 - Ship Building and Repairing].

6. Location of contractor-owned welding facilities and fabrication equipment within the 7th Fleet AOR (confirming operations outside Japan and Guam).
7. Copies of all current commercially qualified welding procedures.

Section II: Technical Approach & Feasibility (FFP Concept)

1. **Procedure Qualification Methodology:** Describe your technical approach to executing qualification in strict compliance with Appendix C of NAVSEA S9074-AQ-GIB-010/248 Rev 1 and LWT 042-001.
2. **Quality Assurance & NDT Capabilities:** Detail your in-house or subcontracted NDT capabilities for Class 1 Visual (VT), Radiographic (RT), and Magnetic Particle (MT) inspection per NAVSEA T9074-AS-GIB-010/271 and MIL-STD-2035, including availability of certified Level II/III examiners.
3. **In-House Workforce:** Confirm that welding will be performed by regular full-time employees using company equipment and describe your ability to qualify welder in accordance with section 5 of with NAVSEA S9074-AQ-GIB-010/248 Rev 1.
4. **Sustainability Concept:** Provide initial concepts on how your company will maintain this procedure and retain qualified welders in accordance with section 5 of with NAVSEA S9074-AQ-GIB-010/248 Rev 1 to support U.S. Navy emergent voyage repairs over a multi-year period.

Section III: Corporate Experience & Geographic Strategy

1. Provide up to three (3) relevant past performance examples within the last 5 years demonstrating successful naval, commercial maritime, or heavy industrial welding to recognized standards (e.g., NAVSEA, AWS, ABS, ASME, Lloyd's Register).
2. Detail your geographic response capabilities for dispatching personnel and performing emergent voyage repairs on U.S. Navy vessels operating in the 7th Fleet theater (outside of Japan and Guam).

Section IV: Estimated Cost & Performance Timeline

1. Provide a rough-order-of-magnitude (ROM) cost estimate or high-level Firm-Fixed-Price structure split between the Base CLIN (Qualification) and Option CLIN (Execution).
2. Provide a proposed schedule/timeline for completion of Tasks 1, 2, and 3 under the Base CLIN, as well as the proposed duration of the Option CLIN.

3. Identify any commercial terms, material availability risks, or technical barriers associated with the LWT 042-001 requirements.
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6. Submission Instructions

Responses must be submitted electronically via email to the primary point of contact listed above no later than the date specified on SAM.gov.

- **Format:** PDF or Microsoft Word format.
- **Subject Line:** RFI Response: 7th Fleet Welding Procedure Qualification Program - [Your Company Name]

7. Disclaimer

This RFI is for information and planning purposes only and does not constitute a commitment, implied or otherwise, that the Government will take procurement action. The Government will not pay for information provided in response to this notice.