



Historical Imagery Digitization Data Project

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Office: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

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Synopsis:

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Historical Imagery Digitization Data Project (HID2P)

Request for Information

Introduction

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is seeking to identify potential sources and conduct market research to help determine the most effective and efficient options to digitize large volumes of high resolution photographic imagery to specific criteria.

This RFI is issued for the purpose of determining interest, feasibility, and capability only and does not constitute a Request for Proposal or indication the Government will contract for any of the items and/or services contained in this notice. In accordance with FAR 52.215-3, the Government will not pay for any information/items submitted in response to this synopsis. Data will not be returned. This RFI does not commit the Government to award a contract. This RFI is for market research only and there is currently no solicitation for this effort. Any solicitation resulting from this announcement will be published separately. Any final plan will be done consistent with E.O 12951 and E.O 13526 dealing with historical intelligence imagery acquired by a space-based national intelligence reconnaissance system.

Background

The NGA is anticipating the potential declassification of significant amounts of film based imagery. A large volume of film based imagery may become declassified in 2011 and would be the basis of an initial effort to digitize historical film based imagery. The NGA is interested in exploring options to have the declassified film digitized and potentially

stored with various distribution possibilities.

What we wish to accomplish: 1) seeking innovative solutions within government, industry and academia that are affordable, and practical, 2) provide access to digitized imagery at a level of quality that NGA deems useful and meaningful, while 3) leading to future enrichment of GEOINT observations in an unclassified environment.

Solution approach(es): There may be variations to this approach, but essentially industry is given access to original negative or 2nd generation dupe positive or 3rd generation dupe negatives, with supporting coverage and ephemeris data, for a period of 1 to 2 years to:

- Scan imagery at a minimum 10 micron or better spatial resolution (4-5 micron), with a dynamic range of at least 10 bits per pixel, either on government premises or at their place of work. Imagery is stored on 500 foot spools, with many frames up to several feet in length. The nominal thickness of the film is 2.5 microns for original negative, and in some cases may be as thin as 1 micron thickness. Dupe negative (2nd generation) or dupe positive (3rd generation imagery) is also available and has a nominal thickness of 2.5 mils, but may have image processing edge sharpness enhancements, other film handling artifacts, and for certain scenes may have lower resolution compared to the original negative imagery.
- Due to the classification of the current film imagery, and until such time as the imagery samples are declassified, details of the film format are not included in this RFI. The responders are encouraged to identify film handling limitations in their RFI responses.
- Provide or make available a digital copy of the scanned imagery to NGA, and a description of the type of storage media that may be provided.
- Retain rights to distribute declassified imagery and recoup investment, for a specified period of time (negotiable), seek greatest flexibility to allow industry to form partnerships to digitize and/or store initial digital data (up to 10 Petabytes) for online, nearline or offline access.
- Government retains rights to limit distribution of this imagery over certain areas of the world
- Security requirements: The work can be performed in an unclassified but access controlled environment. We are interested in understanding if the facilities can operate at the TOP SECRET/SCI level for potential follow on activity.
- Risk and cost is mostly on the contractor. The government performs in an advisory capacity, and oversight for security and support on logistical matters of common concern for the safe handling and use of the imagery.
- The RFI response should not be too specific to limit innovation or efficiencies that may be devised by the responder but should contain the necessary details to understand the underlying business model. We encourage a consortium of industry and/or academic partners to develop the most capable and flexible hardware and image processing technology.
- o Maturity and availability of technology: The response should describe to the extent practical by the responder, which is not proprietary in nature or fact, a short description of engineering for example with hardware, optics, transport, electronics/computer peripherals, and/or detector components that can achieve a level of quality. If there are limitations on handling film widths up to 9 inches, please identify the limiting factors to the output of digitized imagery at a quality and quantity that we may seek, or that which can be achieved with engineering or fabrication of components, software and so forth. The government is not interested in a detailed quantitative description of engineering or other efforts, but only seeks to understand the nature of technical and schedule risks for a certain level of performance that can be addressed by respondents' innovative approaches and the degree of risk and cost that they may be able to handle or share in due consideration of benefits that they may seek to attain in their business case.

Information Requested

Interested companies are requested to submit the information outlined below.

- Experience in digitizing film with high resolution on a large scale of holdings. This should include previous examples with details such as the equipment used, volume (scale) of film digitized, resolution of digitization, any unique film attributes (size, length, thickness), timeline from start to finish to complete the project, and any post data

processing requirements completed on the project.

- Business Case. Respondents should include sufficient details to understand the underlying business case to include assumptions, and any cost sharing arrangement.
- Overall notional schedule. The notional schedule should include assumptions used to develop the schedule. The schedule shall use a hypothetical start date of 1 October 2011 and continue through the end of life of the program. The duration should be based on digitizing up to approximately 4 million linear feet of film up to approximately 7 inches in width.
- o Potential pilot effort. The Government is considering a pilot effort depending on the number and quality of the submissions. This pilot effort would include actual digitizing of up to 6 separate scenes to demonstrate respondent's capabilities. Two of the scenes may be color or false color film. Respondents should include details on their ability to support a pilot effort with a completion by December 2011 in their RFI response.
- Film handling requirements. The film will be made available once the final steps are completed to declassify the imagery. All respondents should identify how the film needs to be made available to them as well as how they will store, safeguard and handle the film (in compliance NARA requirements) and associated electronic data, during the film digitizing process in a facility that can be cleared to the Top Secret/SCI level. The film will need to be returned after the digitizing is completed.

Due Date and Submittal Instructions

To aid in Government review, there are specific requirements on submission. Submissions must be received by the due date using the method for submittal specified below:

1. Due Date and Time: All responses to this RFI must be received by 4 April 2011 by not later than 4:00pm Eastern Standard Time.
2. Method for Submittal: All responses must be submitted via the Unclassified IC-ARC (Intelligence Community - Acquisition Research Center) Website at URL: <https://arc.westfields.net> for NGA - HIDDP.

Responses shall be submitted as one file upload by following the directions for submitting a final RFI response under the RFI TAB on the IC ARC Website referenced above. RFI responses will not be accepted after the cut-off time and date stated above and will not be accepted via e-mail, fax, the Submit Unsolicited link on the ICARC homepage, or other means. To aid in Government review, the total pages for the entire submission are limited to not more than 10 pages, submitted electronically in Portable Document Format(PDF). File size shall not exceed 2MB. The first page of the submission must state the RFI title and provide the name, e-mail address and telephone number of an individual that can be contacted for clarification or questions regarding this submission. The first page should also provide a short description of the company to include company size and category (e.g. large, small, disadvantaged, etc.). Respondents may submit questions concerning the RFI via the IC ARC website. The Government will entertain questions on a case by case basis. Respondents should be advised that all questions submitted to the IC ARC will be posted for all respondents to view, although the identity of the requesting organization will be withheld. The deadline for submitting questions is 18 March 2011. Should you have questions regarding use of the ARC, please contact the ARC Web Team at dev@ticom.npa.gov.

Responses shall not include proprietary information. Any responses that are marked proprietary will not be considered. All responses shall be Unclassified. Responses to this notice will not be returned.

Respondents are hereby notified that the Government intends to utilize FFRDC and/or Support Contractors to provide technical advice on the responses. Any respondent who states in writing that they are unwilling to allow contractor members to review their submission may not have their response reviewed.

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Contracting Office Address:

ACT Mail Stop P-158
12310 Sunrise Valley Road
Reston, Virginia 20191-3449

Place of Performance:

N/A

United States

Primary Point of Contact.:

James B. Troutman,
Contracting Officer
james.b.troutman@nga.mil
Phone: 571-557-2466
Fax: 571-558-3415

Opportunity History

■ **Original Synopsis**

Feb 14, 2011
10:41 am