*Ken Blair (Voiceover):* Everybody, welcome to the Federal Proposal Podcast.

*Ken Blair:* In last week’s episode, I mentioned that we would be providing more information on the NEXTGEN Strategic Risk Management (SRM) solicitation due to be released early in Calendar Year 2023. The anticipated release date of the RFP is now slated for January 18th according to the USAID Business Forecast. Since we have a Statement of Objectives and a set of Industry Day slides, let’s dig a little deeper into this opportunity

As mentioned last week, USAID is looking for some number of partners to assist its Global Health Bureau with the analysis and development of, and recommendations for proactive risk management strategies. The objective is that these strategies will provide USAID with the capability to anticipate, avoid, plan for, or mitigate identified risks. There will most likely be some amplification of this objective when either a draft or the final solicitation is released.

The number of potential awards is unknown and it’s unclear as to whether this will be a full and open competition or is their may be a set aside of some kind. It show be noted that the SAM Notice indicates this opportunity was posted by the the USAID Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

As far as requirements are concerned, a further breakdown was provided by USAID in their SRM Industry Day slide deck. Their main emphasis is on the Global Health Bureau’s supply chain vulnerabilities from both a global and local perspective. In particular, consideration is to be given to transport delays of any kind such as those that might result from port closures or labor issues, fraud, environmental impacts, and geopolitical developments. In addition, pandemics are to be considered as well as so called black swan events or those events that are outside of normal expectations but could have severe consequences if they occur (Titanic anyone???). The is also a more granular set of risks associated with the challenges of field data sharing and the quality of said data.

The Statement of Objectives that was released the late in the first quarter of 2021 as a series of questions for offeror’s to consider in their response to the accompanying request for information These included the following seven questions (and I paraphrase here):

1. Are the stated objective clear and realistic?
2. What would be the key challenges for any developed solution?
3. What might be key components to any analytical solution?
4. What emerging technologies might be part of a predictive model?
5. What kinds of work have you done in this area?
6. Does you organization have a solution currently in use or at hand?
7. Do you have a GSA Federal Supply Schedule contract?

That last question might imply USAID’s interest in using a GWAC or similar contract vehicle for the acquisition but there is no indication that that strategy has been solidified.

So the main consideration is what should I be doing now: Well, there are a number of activities that come to mind:

First, take advantage of the material available through sources like GovWin and SAM to become as familiar as you can with the requirements. The GovWin ID is 192569 and while there is no SAM notice ID you can find information to include the Industry Day Q&A. SAM does not make finding this easy so check out the transcript of this show to find an active link to the SAM record.

Second, I would suggest after reviewing the available material to run an internal RFI response to see what your organizations position might be and to analyze possible aspects of a bid/no bid decision once the final RFP is released.

Based on your analysis, if you find you might have a play for this, start determining what resources you have both from the perspective of content and from the human resource prospective to develop a winning response.

And finally, make plans for assembling your team with consideration of any required outside resources.

Going through these steps will put you in the position to hit the ground running once the final RFP is released.

That’s it for this episode. I hope you’re getting some good information. If you have any suggestions for improvements or any partucilar program you’d like analyzed, just send me an email at ken.blair@fedprops.com again thats ken.blair@fedprops.com. Any suggestions will be well received and I’ll try to implement any that will bring value to my listeners.

Our next episode will dig into the detail of the Navy’s Mission Systems Engineering Support for AD4113.

Thanks for listening.

SAM LINK: <https://sam.gov/opp/8f9cd032502149bfb9970ed72a5e82e8/view>