



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Business Center**  
**Aviation Management**  
300 E. Mallard Drive, Ste. 200  
Boise, ID 83706-3991



In reply refer to:

March 30, 2012

**To Prospective Offerors:**

**Solicitation No. D12PS00178 Exclusive Use Helicopter Flight Services to Support Yosemite National Park Fire Management and Search and Rescue Programs, Designated Base, Crane Flat Helibase, Yosemite, California**

The attached Request for Proposals (RFP) is to acquire fully Contractor operated and maintained flight services consisting of one helicopter and associated equipment to be used as directed by the National Park Service (NPS) for their exclusive use. The services sought in the RFP are being acquired under the authority of Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), Part 12, Acquisition of Commercial Items and FAR Subpart 13.5, Test Program for Certain Commercial Items. This acquisition is considered unrestricted with requests for proposals being solicited from both Small and Large Business concerns using the cascading set-aside award terms described in Section D, Paragraph D2.2.

**BACKGROUND –**

The contract resulting from this solicitation will require you to provide helicopter flight services from May 10 until October 18 (162 days) 14 hours per day as scheduled by the National Park Service. A small office space at the Crane Flat Helibase is available for use by the contractor. Housing, trailer parks and restaurants may be found in the town of Groveland approximately 25 miles west of Crane Flat.

Flying at Yosemite is challenging, elevations range from 2,000 to 14,000 feet and temperatures routinely exceed 80 degrees in the summer. Flying precision rescue missions at high-density altitudes in a canyon environment challenges even the most skilled pilots. Shorthaul or rappel is used several times each year to evacuate injured park visitors from backcountry locations and injured climbers from rock outcroppings. See Shorthaul Pilot Proficiency Exhibit for test standards. All pilots flying on this contract must successfully pass the Shorthaul Pilot Proficiency flight test. The helicopter is routinely dispatched outside the park on fire assignments ranging from one day to two weeks.

If your offer is selected for award, your prices will remain in effect for the first year of the contract as well as subsequent option years if the contract is renewed. No adjustments to prices will be made except as otherwise permitted in the solicitation specifications. Renewal of this contract is at the option of the Government and this should be given careful consideration when considering costs that may impact operation of your helicopter over the five-year period that this contract could extend.

The solicitation includes requirements that may be somewhat different or new from past DOI helicopter solicitations. I would like to draw your attention to the items below, but ask that you read the entire solicitation and do not rely upon this listing to be all inclusive of items that could affect your proposal.

- (Bell medium only.) Approval for pilot operations from the Left crew seat. (B6.8.1)
- Primary water bucket commensurate with the maximum lifting capability of the contract aircraft at

- 5,000 feet and 30 degrees C. (B6.25)
- A second water bucket is required (B6.26)
- Wire strike protection system is required (B6.31)



- Snow/tundra pads. (B6.32)
- Rappelling Configuration (B6.33)
- Requirement for two (FM-2) VHF-FM multi-mode aeronautical transceivers (B7.3.3)
- An automated flight following (AFF) system is required (B7.3.5)
- One external public address/siren system (B7.6.4)
- A cellular phone is required. Verizon Wireless is the only successful subscription service in the area (B7.6.3)
- A fuel vehicle with a minimum of 16 hours of fuel capacity (B8.1.2.2)
- Special Pilot Requirements, Shorthaul/Rappel (B10.3)
- Single-Skid, Toe-in, Hover Exit/Entry Procedure (STEP) landings are authorized (B20.4)

Section D, 52.212-1, Instructions to Offerors, discusses what you must submit with your proposal and 52.212-2, Evaluation, discusses how we will evaluate your proposal. Prior to submission of your proposal, please check to see that you have included all the information requested. Failure to include the information identified may adversely effect the evaluation of your proposal.

You will be notified of the successful offeror and the award price. This information will also be posted at FEDCONNECT AND FEDBIZ and at the Aviation Management (AM) Internet home page, <http://amd.nbc.gov> after award. Past contract history information is attached to this letter.

**Proposals are due by 2:00 PM Mountain Time, APRIL 17, 2012.** Proposals received after this time and date would be subject to the conditions of D5, Late Submissions, Modifications, Revisions, and Withdrawals of Offers.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at the above office address, by telephone at 208-433-5021, facsimile at 208-433-5030 or email [Tina\\_Young@nbc.gov](mailto:Tina_Young@nbc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Tina L. Young*

Tina L. Young  
Contracting Officer

## CONTRACT PROCUREMENT HISTORY

<b>PREVIOUS CONTRACTOR</b>	Kachina Aviation Nampa, Idaho		
<b>PREVIOUS CONTRACT #</b>	80-2724		
<b>TYPE AIRCRAFT</b>	BH-205A++		
<b>DESIGNATED BASE</b>	Crane Flat Helibase, Yosemite NP, CA		
<b>EXCLUSIVE USE PERIOD</b>	May 10 – October 18 (162 Days)		
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DAILY AVAILABILITY RATE (Rounded)</b>	<b>HOURLY FLIGHT RATE</b>	<b>HOURS FLOWN</b>
2011	\$3433.00	\$1,713.00	263
2010	\$3333.00	\$1,663.00	228
2009	\$3236.00	\$1,613.00	Not Available