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Solicitation Amendment / Modification

1.	Solicitation No.	06012026/ET
2.	Solicitation Name	Preferred Partners for Custom Application Development and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Services
3.	Issue Date	June 1, 2026
4.	Closing Date	July 15, 2026
5.	Solicitation Amendment No.	1
6.	Solicitation Amendment Date	June 25, 2026

7. The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 9 below.

8. The hour and dates specified for receipt of proposals/quotations: is not extended; is extended as described in Item 9 below.

9. Description of Amendment/Modification:

The purpose of this solicitation amendment is to inform prospective offerors/bidders that the above numbered solicitation is hereby amended to extend the due date for submission of proposals to July 15, 2026 and to provide responses to questions as follows.

See attached full list of Questions and Answers.

END OF AMENDMENT

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #001	Project Management & PMO Governance	The RFP states that IIE intends to establish a pool of preferred vendors for future initiatives rather than procure a specific project. Can IIE provide examples of the types of projects anticipated under this preferred vendor program?	This varies based on programmatic requirements. Some past projects were, CRM implementation, ERP implementation, Reporting Platform Implementation, Integrations between core systems, and more. We are a Microsoft shop but leverage a variety of tools.
Q #002	Project Management & PMO Governance	Approximately how many preferred vendors does IIE anticipate selecting through this solicitation?	Estimating 3 vendors to secure this status with IIE.
Q #003	Project Management & PMO Governance	Once vendors are selected, what process will be used to engage preferred vendors for future work (e.g., competitive task orders, mini-RFPs, direct assignments, or Statements of Work)?	Direct assignments and possible rotation based on expertise.
Q #004	Contracting & Licensing	Is there an anticipated annual spend, estimated contract value, or projected volume of work that can be shared for planning purposes?	No
Q #005	Contracting & Licensing	Will all future engagements be issued under a master services agreement with project-specific Statements of Work?	Yes
Q #006	Contracting & Licensing	Is there an incumbent vendor or group of vendors currently providing custom application development, maintenance, AI, or related technology services to IIE?	N/A
Q #007	Contracting & Licensing	Will incumbent vendors be eligible to participate in this solicitation?	Yes
Q #008	Project Management & PMO Governance	Is the use of offshore resources permitted for the performance of services under this contract?	Yes
Q #009	Project Management & PMO Governance	If offshore resources are permitted, can a portion of the work be performed from locations outside the United States, such as India?	See Answer to Q#008

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #010	Information Security & Compliance	Are there any contractual, data security, privacy, compliance, donor, or funding restrictions that would limit the use of offshore resources?	This is project dependent. Some programs are Fedramp medium compliant. United States Privacy Act and GDPR are always a consideration, and we follow NIST.
Q #011	Project Management & PMO Governance	Does IIE require any project roles to be physically located within the United States?	Onsite is not a requirement.
Q #012	Project Management & PMO Governance	Are there any anticipated onsite requirements for discovery workshops, project meetings, training sessions, knowledge transfer activities, or project governance reviews?	See Answer to Q#011
Q #013	Application Development & Support	Can IIE provide examples of the custom applications currently managed by the Technology Department that may require enhancement, modernization, maintenance, or replacement?	IIE has a large portfolio of integrated system. One key challenge is data synchronization between disparate systems. AI modernization is at the forefront of the organization
Q #014	Application Development & Support	Approximately how many applications are currently within IIE's application portfolio that may require support from preferred vendors?	Over 20 systems.
Q #015	Application Development & Support	Are future engagements expected to focus primarily on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New application development • Legacy application modernization • Application maintenance and support • A combination of the above 	Yes
Q #016	Infrastructure & Architecture	Can IIE provide additional information regarding its current application architecture landscape, including cloud-native, microservices-based, monolithic, and hybrid solutions?	We are a Microsoft shop and leverage their toolset. We also utilize AWS.
Q #017	Application Development & Support	What are the primary business functions or domains supported by these applications (e.g., scholarship management, grants management, CRM, finance, reporting, workflow automation, portals, or data management)?	The business functions are internal programmatic and shared service.

Q #018	Application Development & Support	Does IIE maintain application inventories, architecture diagrams, technical documentation, and system specifications that will be made available to selected vendors?	Yes. Signing a NDA will be required before IIE shares any confidential or proprietary information.
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ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #019	Application Development & Support	Are vendors expected to provide end-to-end delivery services including business analysis, requirements gathering, UX/UI design, architecture, development, testing, deployment, training, and support?	Yes
Q #020	Project Management & PMO Governance	Are there preferred software development methodologies that vendors should follow (e.g., Agile, Scrum, Kanban, Hybrid, Waterfall)?	Project dependent. All methodologies are used at IIE.
Q #021	Application Development & Support	Are there established enterprise architecture standards, coding standards, development frameworks, or security standards that vendors will be required to follow?	Yes, but system dependent.
Q #022	Information Security & Compliance	Are there minimum accessibility requirements, such as WCAG compliance standards, applicable to future application development projects?	See Answer to Q#010
Q #023	Application Integrations	Can IIE provide examples of common third-party systems, APIs, identity providers, enterprise applications, or external platforms that future applications may need to integrate with?	Possible Service Desk, CRM, ERP, Vendor Onboarding, etc.
Q #024	Application Development & Support	Are vendors expected to provide production support and maintenance services for applications after implementation, or will support transition to internal IIE teams?	Project dependent and to be negotiated.
Q #025	Infrastructure & Architecture	Can IIE provide additional information regarding its current technology ecosystem, including primary platforms, technologies, and enterprise systems?	See Answer to Q#016
Q #026	Infrastructure & Architecture	Beyond Microsoft Azure, are there other cloud environments currently utilized by IIE?	We are a Microsoft shop and leverage their toolset and supported languages.
Q #027	Infrastructure & Architecture	Are there preferred programming languages, frameworks, databases, and development platforms that vendors should support?	See Answer to Q#026
Q #028	Application Integrations	Does IIE currently utilize enterprise integration platforms, API management	MS DevOps

solutions, event-streaming platforms, or middleware technologies?

Q #029	Application Development & Support	What DevOps, source control, CI/CD, release management, and project management tools are currently used by IIE?	See Answer to Q#028
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ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #030	Application Development & Support	Does IIE currently have an enterprise AI strategy, governance framework, or AI roadmap that selected vendors will be expected to support?	No...to be developed in coordination with preferred vendors.
Q #031	Application Development & Support	Which AI platforms and technologies are currently approved or preferred by IIE (e.g., Azure OpenAI, OpenAI, Anthropic, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot)?	Microsoft Copilot
Q #032	Application Development & Support	Does IIE currently have any AI-powered applications, copilots, chatbots, or RAG implementations in production or under development?	No
Q #033	Project Management & PMO Governance	Are vendors expected to provide AI strategy and advisory services in addition to implementation services?	Vendors will partner with IIE to discover and provide advisory services.
Q #034	Information Security & Compliance	Does IIE have preferred approaches or standards for AI governance, prompt management, model evaluation, responsible AI practices, and AI security?	To be developed with future partners.
Q #35	Information Security & Compliance	Are there specific regulatory, privacy, compliance, or donor requirements that must be addressed when implementing AI-enabled solutions?	See Answer to Q#010
Q #36	Application Development & Support	What enterprise data sources are expected to be leveraged by AI solutions (e.g., SharePoint, document repositories, databases, APIs, knowledge bases)?	Microsoft Ecosystem (Data warehouse, CRM, Data Lake, etc.)
Q #37	Application Development & Support	Will vendors be expected to provide ongoing model monitoring, optimization, retraining, and operational support for AI solutions?	Yes
Q #38	Application Development & Support	Does IIE have preferred technologies or architectures for Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) implementations?	No

Q #39	Information Security & Compliance	Attachment C references ISO 27001 certification and SOC 2 Type II attestations. Are these certifications mandatory requirements for preferred vendor selection, or will equivalent security controls be considered?	Certifications are mandatory when applicable.
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ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #040	Information Security & Compliance	For vendors without ISO 27001 certification, can IIE provide additional information regarding the scope and expected effort associated with the NIST Cybersecurity Framework assessment?	Yes
Q #041	Information Security & Compliance	Will selected vendors be required to complete the Third-Party Risk Management process prior to contract award, contract execution, or project assignment?	Once selected, Yes
Q #042	Information Security & Compliance	Are there additional security, privacy, or compliance requirements that vendors should be aware of, including GDPR, FERPA, HIPAA, PCI-DSS, FedRAMP, or other frameworks?	See Answer to Q#010
Q #043	Information Security & Compliance	Will future projects involve access to personally identifiable information (PII), student data, scholarship data, financial data, or other sensitive information?	Yes. NDAs are mandatory and T&Cs spelled out in mandatory MSAs. Access is controlled and monitored internally.
Q #044	Application Development & Support	Can IIE provide additional details regarding expectations for application maintenance and support services?	See Answer to Q#024
Q #045	Application Development & Support	Are there target service levels, response times, resolution times, or uptime requirements that vendors should anticipate supporting?	See Answer to Q#024
Q #046	Application Development & Support	Does support include enhancement requests and new feature development, or is it limited to issue resolution and operational support?	See Answer to Q#024
Q #047	Application Development & Support	Will after-hours, weekend, or emergency support be required?	See Answer to Q#024
Q #048	Application Development & Support	Are there existing ticketing systems, operational procedures, or support processes that vendors will be expected to utilize?	See Answer to Q#024

Q #049	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Will demonstrations and interviews focus on technical capabilities, AI capabilities, prior project experience, delivery methodology, or all these areas?	All will be virtual. Focus is on AI and SDLC capability.
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ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #050	Contracting & Licensing	Is there a minimum number of reference projects that Offerors are expected to provide?	3
Q #051	Contracting & Licensing	Are there any mandatory qualifications, certifications, or minimum experience thresholds that Offerors must meet to be considered responsive?	Only what is described in the RFP.
Q #052	Contracting & Licensing	Can offeror provide pricing in own format in MS Excel?	Vendors are free to provide their own pricing formats.
Q #053	Contracting & Licensing	Is it mandatory for the offeror to submit pricing using the format provided in 'Attachment B – Cost Proposal Template,' or may the offeror use its own pricing format, provided that all requested pricing information is included, and the government's requirements are fully met?	See Answer to Q#052
Q #054	Contracting & Licensing	Are offshore, nearshore, and onshore resources permitted, and should they be priced separately?	See Answer to Q#008
Q #055	Contracting & Licensing	Does IIE prefer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hourly rate cards, · Daily rates, · Fixed-price project pricing, · Or a combination of these models? 	Fixed, blended rate, and T&M
Q #056	Contracting & Licensing	Which labor categories does IIE expect vendors to include (e.g., Project Manager, Business Analyst, Solution Architect, Developer, AI Engineer, Data Engineer, QA Engineer, DevOps Engineer)?	Whatever roles your company can offer.
Q #057	Contracting & Licensing	Should vendors submit seniority-based rates (Junior, Mid-Level, Senior, Principal)?	An example rate card has been provided in the RFP.
Q #058	Contracting & Licensing	For AI projects, should vendors separately identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Development costs, 	Nothing required now. For future discussion.

- Model/API consumption costs,
- Hosting costs,
- Ongoing monitoring and support costs?

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #059	Project Management & PMO Governance	Will future Statements of Work be competitively bid among selected preferred vendors?	See Answer to Q#003
Q #060	Contracting & Licensing	Is there a maximum allowable annual rate increase?	To be negotiated.
Q #061	Contracting & Licensing	Can IIE provide any estimate of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Expected annual spend, · Number of projects, · Typical project sizes, · Or anticipated resource demand? 	See Answer to Q#004
Q #062	Contracting & Licensing	Are there any minimum engagement sizes or contract values anticipated?	No
Q #063	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	The evaluation criteria allocate 20% weight to cost. Can IIE clarify how pricing will be assessed given that no specific project scope is being procured under this RFP?	Based on your provided rate card and blended rates.
Q #064	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Will pricing competitiveness be evaluated primarily on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Individual labor rates, · Discounts 	See Answer to Q#063
Q #065	Information Security & Compliance	Third-Party IT Risk Management (Attachment C): For Offerors that do not currently hold ISO 27001 certification, would a SOC 2 Type 2 attestation that is in progress (with audit completion expected in Q4 2026), together with a completed NIST CSF assessment via the OneTrust platform, satisfy IIE's TPRM requirements at the time of contract execution? If not, please clarify the minimum-security posture required for inclusion in the preferred vendor pool versus at task-order award.	See Answer to Q#039

Q #066	Contracting & Licensing	Cost Proposal (Attachment B): Given that this RFP establishes a preferred vendor pool independent of any specific project, should the cost proposal be structured as a role-based rate card (hourly rates by role and delivery location), and are there specific roles or blended-rate structures IIE would like all Offerors to price for comparability?	See Answer to Q#052, Q#063
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ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #067	Contracting & Licensing	Anticipated volume: Is IIE able to share any anticipated near-term initiatives, or an estimated annual engagement volume, expected to be executed through the preferred vendor pool during the initial contract year?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #068	Project Management & PMO Governance	Number of awards: How many preferred vendors does IIE anticipate selecting under this RFP across the Custom Application Development and AI Services scopes?	See Answer to Q#002
Q #069	Application Development & Support	What are the current limitations and challenges that IIE is seeking to address through future application development and AI initiatives?	AI technology to enhance our business processes. Enhancing data synchronization across different platforms.
Q #070	Project Management & PMO Governance	Will selected vendors be categorized by specialization (e.g., AI/LLM, Application Development, Cloud Engineering, Data Integration), or will all selected vendors be eligible for all opportunities?	You can propose specific service areas.
Q #071	Contracting & Licensing	Is there an estimated annual volume of projects or anticipated spend for the preferred vendor program?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #072	Application Development & Support	Is IIE seeking primarily staff augmentation services, project-based delivery services, or both?	See Answer to Q#015
Q #073	Project Management & PMO Governance	Does IIE expect dedicated resources or shared resource pools for future engagements?	Flexible staffing model
Q #074	Contracting & Licensing	Will future projects be fixed-price, time-and-materials, or a combination of both?	See Answer to Q#055

Q #075	Contracting & Licensing	Should vendors submit standard hourly rate cards only, or are blended rates and role-based rates preferred?	See Answer to Q#052
Q #076	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Will demonstrations and interviews focus on organizational capabilities or specific solution examples?	See Answer to Q#049

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #077	Project Management & PMO Governance	Will future engagements be issued under a Master Services Agreement (MSA) with project-specific Statements of Work (SOWs)?	See Answer to Q#005
Q #078	Project Management & PMO Governance	Do you expect the vendor to perform any tasks on-site, or can all work be performed remotely?	See Answer to Q#011
Q #079	Project Management & PMO Governance	Do you accept offshore resources?	See Answer to Q#008
Q #080	Project Management & PMO Governance	How many vendors does IIE plan to select for the preferred vendor pool?	See Answer to Q#002
Q #081	Project Management & PMO Governance	What process will be used to assign future projects to selected vendors?	See Answer to Q#003
Q #082	Contracting & Licensing	“Attachment B provides a generic pricing template, and the RFP does not define any specific project scope, estimated effort, or anticipated volume of work.” Could IIE please confirm whether it is sufficient for Offerors to submit role-based hourly rates for the proposed resources, or if additional pricing information is required for evaluation of the preferred vendor pool?	See Answer to Q#052
Q #083	Information Security & Compliance	Please confirm whether both ISO 27001 certification and SOC 2 Type II attestation are required for vendor qualification, or if possession of either certification is considered sufficient.	See Answer to Q#039

Q #084	Information Security & Compliance	Should Offerors submit evidence of ISO 27001 certification, SOC 2 Type II reports, and other Attachment C security documentation as part of the proposal submission, or will these documents be requested only from selected vendors during the contracting and onboarding process?	See Answer to Q#041
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ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #085	Information Security & Compliance	<p>“Attachment C indicates that vendors without ISO 27001 certification must provide a SOC 2 Type II attestation and complete a NIST CSF-based security assessment.”</p> <p>Could IIE please clarify whether completion of the NIST CSF assessment is required as part of the proposal submission process, or only for vendors selected for contract award and onboarding?</p>	See Answer to Q#041
Q #086	Project Management & PMO Governance	Are non-US vendors eligible to submit proposals, provided they can deliver services remotely and comply with the applicable contract, security, privacy, and data protection requirements?	See Answer to Q#008
Q #087	Project Management & PMO Governance	Is remote delivery acceptable for the preferred partner pool, or does IIE expect selected vendors to provide on-site services in the United States when requested?	See Answer to Q#011
Q #088	Contracting & Licensing	Are vendors allowed to propose a blended delivery model using a primary contractor with subcontractors or specialist partners, provided responsibilities, roles, and points of contact are clearly identified?	Subcontractors are permitted. However, the vendor is fully accountable for subcontractor efforts and results.
Q #089	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	For references and past performance, may vendors provide non-US references or confidential client/project references, with contact details shared only during the shortlist/reference-check stage?	Yes
Q #090	Contracting & Licensing	Is IIE open to rate-card proposals that include remote/nearshore blended rates, fixed-fee discovery packages, and project-based pricing options?	See Answer to Q#055

Q #091	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Are there any page limits or preferred structure for the proposal beyond the 6 MB attachment limit and the sections described in the RFP?	No
Q #092	Information Security & Compliance	For the IT Security Questionnaire and supporting security documentation, are ISO 27001 and SOC 2 Type 2 required at the proposal submission stage, or are they requested later only for selected vendors/projects that involve IIE proprietary data, personal data, or network access?	See Answer to Q#041

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #093	Information Security & Compliance	Will IIE accept a vendor's completion of the alternative NIST CSF assessment questionnaire (offline Excel option) in lieu of active SOC 2 Type 2 or ISO 27001 certifications for preferred partner selection?	See Answer to Q#040
Q #094	Project Management & PMO Governance	To what extent will remote work be standard, and are there any mandatory on-site meetings required at IIE's New York headquarters or other domestic offices?	See Answer to Q#011
Q #095	Project Management & PMO Governance	Can IIE clarify the estimated number of preferred partners it intends to select for this pre-qualified pool?	See Answer to Q#002
Q #96	Infrastructure & Architecture	Will development, testing, and sandbox environments be hosted within IIE's existing Azure subscriptions, or are vendors expected to host development sandboxes on their own cloud infrastructure?	It will depend and be project specific.
Q #97	Application Development & Support	Are there specific legacy, custom-developed applications currently in place that require immediate maintenance or optimization support under this contract?	See Answer to Q#013
Q #98	Application Development & Support	Does IIE currently have a primary platform or model provider (e.g., OpenAI via Azure, Anthropic, or open-source models) selected for its generative AI initiatives, or is model selection open to vendor recommendation?	See Answer to Q#031
Q #99	Application Development & Support	Are there pre-existing enterprise data sources (such as specific SharePoint sites, localized databases, or specific document	See Answer to Q#036

stores) already prioritized for RAG-based search development?

Q #100 Contracting & Licensing Is there an incumbent vendor currently performing these custom application development and AI services for IIE's Technology Department? See Answer to Q#006

Q #101 Contracting & Licensing What is the historical volume of work or estimated annual budget allocation across the preferred partner pool for custom application development over previous fiscal cycles? See Answer to Q#004

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #102	Project Management & PMO Governance	Can you please confirm this is a multi-vendor award IDIQ	Yes
Q #103	Contracting & Licensing	The evaluation criteria referenced fixed-fee options for cost.	See Answer to Q#063
Q #104	Contracting & Licensing	Given the lack of current detailed scope for a particulate project, how can we go about offering fixed fee options.	See Answer to Q#063
Q #105	Contracting & Licensing	If we are open to both fixed fee based on project scope as well as time&materials, how should we reflect that in the cost template?	See Answer to Q#055
Q #106	Project Management & PMO Governance	The Statement of Work covers both custom application development and AI services. Is IIE looking for vendors qualified across both areas, or are you establishing separate preferred-vendor pools by capability? We want to scope our response to match how you intend to use the list.	See Answer to Q#70
Q #107	Information Security & Compliance	Attachment C describes the security assessment as a pre-contract step, with ISO 27001, SOC 2 Type 2, or a NIST CSF-mapped assessment as the options. Does the path a vendor selects factor into the evaluation scoring under Financial Stability and Reputation, or is it strictly a pre-contract requirement once work is assigned?	See Answer to Q#041

Q #108	Project Management & PMO Governance	Could you confirm whether vendors may propose for AI services only (e.g., LLM solutions, Copilot development, RAG implementations) without covering the full custom application development scope, or must all proposals address both areas?	See Answer to Q#70
Q #109	Information Security & Compliance	The RFP references ISO 27001 and SOC 2 Type 2. Could you clarify whether SOC 2 Type 2 alone is sufficient, or if ISO 27001 certification is strongly preferred for vendor selection?	See Answer to Q#039
Q#110	Information Security & Compliance	For vendors working remotely, would completion of the NIST CSF assessment be acceptable in lieu of ISO certification, and does IIE require vendors to host data only in U.S.-based cloud environments?	See Answer to Q#040

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #111	Project Management & PMO Governance	Since this RFP establishes a preferred vendor pool , could you confirm whether vendors will be engaged on a project-by-project basis with separate statements of work, or if a master services agreement will govern all engagements?	See Answer to Q#005
Q #112	Contracting & Licensing	The RFP provides a template in Attachment B. Is it acceptable to submit a customized cost breakdown (e.g., rate card plus fixed-fee options) as long as it aligns with the categories requested?	See Answer to Q#052
Q #113	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	The schedule notes vendor shortlisting and interviews. Could you confirm whether all demonstrations and interviews may be conducted virtually , given that our team operates remotely?	See Answer to Q#049
Q #114	Project Management & PMO Governance	Section 1 states that this RFP is issued independently of any current project and is intended to establish a pool of pre-qualified preferred vendors for up to five years. Will IIE confirm whether vendors that currently hold an active agreement, MSA, or preferred vendor status with IIE are required to submit a new proposal under this RFP to be considered for the new preferred-vendor pool, or whether existing arrangements are carried forward?	Yes

Q #115	Project Management & PMO Governance	Will the selected preferred vendors be organized into tiers or segments. For example, by service track, project size, or area of specialization - or will all selected vendors be listed in a single, undifferentiated preferred-vendor pool?	See Answer to Q#70
Q #116	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Section 6 lists five weighted evaluation criteria (Financial Stability & Reputation – 25; Depth of Skills & Relevant Experience – 30; Cost – 20; References – 10; Presentation & Interview – 15). The technical / Statement-of-Work response described in Section 4 (and Section 3.5) is not itemized as a separate scoring line. Will IIE confirm how the technical proposal is evaluated - i.e., whether it is scored within “Depth of Skills & Relevant Experience (30),” or whether a separate weighting applies?	Structured best effort.

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #117	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Section 3 (“Proposal Preparation Instructions”) and Section 4 (“Technical Proposal Instructions”) both request capability, experience, and approach information. Will IIE clarify the intended relationship between the two - specifically, whether Section 4 should be submitted as a distinct technical proposal document, or whether a complete response to Section 3 (including the Section 3.5 Statement-of-Work implementation response) satisfies the Section 4 requirements?	See Answer to Q#116
Q #118	Information Security & Compliance	Attachment C states that an IT Security Questionnaire is required <i>prior to signing a contract</i> , while also asking Offerors holding ISO 27001 certification to "attach such documentation." Will IIE please confirm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . that the Third-Party IT Risk Management (TPRM) process - including the IT Security Questionnaire and any ISO 27001 / SOC 2 Type 2 evidence - is handled later as a post-selection / pre-contract step; and . whether an ISO 27001 certification held at the parent / group-entity level (covering the contracting subsidiary) will be accepted as satisfying the Attachment C ISO 27001 requirement? 	See Answer to Q#041

Q #119	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Section 3.4 requests relevant projects "implemented within the past 3 years." To allow Offerors to present the most relevant and substantial track record, will IIE relax this window and confirm that the following may also be included in the past-performance / reference table? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Projects completed within the past 6 years (rather than only the past 3 years); and . Currently active / ongoing engagements. 	Yes
Q #120	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Section 3, Item 4 – Past Performance and Experience Item 4 require offerors to complete the Past Performance table (columns a–g) for relevant projects from the past three years and then states that offerors "may also include recommendation/appreciation letters and certificates." We understand the completed Past Performance table to be mandatory , while the recommendation/appreciation letters and certificates are optional and not a required submittal. Could IIE please confirm this understanding is correct?	Yes, please refer to the RFP

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #121	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Section 3, Item 4 (Past Performance and Experience) and Section 4 (Technical Proposal Instructions – "Prior Experience" and "References") Both sections request experience and references. Could IIE clarify whether the "Prior Experience" and "References" listed under Section 4 are intended to be satisfied by the Past Performance table in Section 3, Item 4 , or whether they are separate submittals to be addressed independently? Additionally, the Past Performance table is pre-formatted with three (3) rows - please confirm whether three references is the required number, a minimum, or a maximum , and whether offerors may include additional entries if relevant.	See Answer to Q#120, Q#116, Q#050

Q #122	contracting & Licensing	Section 3.6 and Attachment B request a detailed cost proposal, while Section 1 establishes a preferred-vendor pool independent of any specific project or defined scope. AgreeYa assumes that, at this stage, a standard role-based rate card is the expected level of pricing detail, rather than the itemized Attachment B cost template completed with project quantities. Will IIE confirm this assumption, or advise if a completed Attachment B itemized template is required at this stage?	See Answer to Q#052
Q #123	contracting & Licensing	How should the rate card be structured: (a) individual role-by-role rates; (b) a single blended rate; or (c) both?	See Answer to Q#052
Q #124	Project Management & PMO Governance	Is offshore or hybrid onshore/offshore delivery permitted? and may Offerors submit separate onshore and offshore rates within the rate card?	See Answer to Q#008
Q #125	contracting & Licensing	May Offerors include as many roles / labor categories as they consider relevant, or does IIE expect a defined / standard set of roles?	See Answer to Q#056
Q #126	contracting & Licensing	Section 6 evaluates "fixed-fee options where applicable." Given no defined scope at this stage, will IIE confirm that fixed-fee / package pricing is optional now and would be set later at the task-order / SOW level?	See Answer to Q#055

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #127	contracting & Licensing	Can IIE share the approximate historical annual spend over the past three years for (a) custom application development & maintenance and (b) AI services.	See Answer to Q#004
Q #128	contracting & Licensing	Can IIR share an anticipated annual budget range across the two tracks?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #129	contracting & Licensing	Can IIE indicate the typical or expected size range of individual task orders / Statements of Work anticipated under this preferred-vendor arrangement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Under \$50,000 USD; . \$50,000 – \$250,000 USD; or . Above \$250,000 USD. 	See Answer to Q#062

Q #130	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Section 6 – Evaluation of Proposals, "Company's Financial Stability & Reputation" criterion (Weight Factor 25) The criterion description references "recognition (including women-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned business status where applicable)." Could IIE clarify whether diverse business status (e.g., women-owned, minority-owned, or veteran-owned certification) carries any scoring preference or additional weighting within this criterion? If so, how is it scored or factored into the 25-point allocation?	Yes
Q #131	Application Development & Support	What is IIE's current level of AI maturity, e.g. has it deployed any production AI or LLM solutions, or is this the first formal initiative?	See Answer to Q#032
Q #132	contracting & Licensing	Are there incumbent vendors that have assisted with AI-related initiatives, platform decisions, licenses, etc. that would constrain or inform the AI solution domain?	See Answer to Q#006
Q #133	Application Development & Support	What AI-related work, if any, has IIE already attempted or piloted, and what were the outcomes?	See Answer to Q#032

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #134	Application Development & Support	Are there specific use cases (e.g., document summarization, conversational agents, semantic search) that are already defined and ready to proceed, versus those that are still exploratory in nature?	Vendors will help identify.
Q #135	Project Management & PMO Governance	Will projects be defined and scoped by IIE prior to vendor engagement, or will vendors be expected to lead discovery and use-case identification?	See Answer to Q#033

Q #136	Application Development & Support	What business domains (HR, legal, finance, operations, customer service, etc.) are expected to be primary beneficiaries of AI solutions?	See Answer to Q#017
Q #137	Application Development & Support	Are there specific M365 Copilot or Copilot Studio deployments already underway, or will awarded vendors be starting this as a greenfield initiative?	See Answer to Q#032
Q #138	Infrastructure & Architecture	What are IIE's primary cloud platforms (e.g. Azure, AWS, Google Cloud, or hybrid) and does IIE have a stated cloud-first or cloud-preference policy?	See Answer to Q#016
Q #139	Application Development & Support	Does IIE have a preferred AI/LLM platform or model provider (e.g., Azure OpenAI, OpenAI, Google Vertex AI, Anthropic), or will vendors be expected to evaluate and recommend?	See Answer to Q#031
Q #140	Information Security & Compliance	What is the current state of IIE's data governance, e.g. are data sources catalogued, quality-managed, and access-controlled, or will data preparation be a significant component of early engagements?	See Answer to Q#043
Q #141	Application Development & Support	Are enterprise data sources for RAG solutions already identified, or will vendors be expected to participate in data discovery and source selection?	See Answer to Q#036

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #142	Information Security & Compliance	Have data classification, retention, and sensitivity labels and policies already been applied to content that may be ingested into AI solutions (e.g., PII, confidential business data, regulated content)?	See Answer to Q#043
Q #143	Information Security & Compliance	Does IIE have existing data pipelines, ETL/ELT tooling, or indexing infrastructure (e.g., Azure AI Search, Elasticsearch) that vendors would be expected to leverage or build upon?	See Answer to Q#028

Q #144	Information Security & Compliance	Does IIE have an existing Responsible AI policy or ethics framework that awarded vendors must adhere to?	See Answer to Q#034
Q #145	Application Development & Support	Does IIE expect vendors to provide retraining and fine-tuning services, or will solutions primarily leverage base/foundation models with RAG and prompt engineering?	See Answer to Q#037
Q #146	Contracting & Licensing	How does IIE anticipate structuring task orders by fixed-price project, time-and-materials, or a hybrid model?	See Answer to Q#055
Q #147	Project Management & PMO Governance	Will projects be issued competitively among all preapproved vendors (i.e., a second-tier competition), or will task orders be directed to specific vendors based on specialization?	See Answer to Q#003
Q #148	Contracting & Licensing	What is the anticipated volume and cadence of task orders during the contract period?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #149	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Are there specific AI certifications, partner designations (e.g., Microsoft AI Cloud Partner), or industry credentials that IIE will weigh in the vendor evaluation?	See Answer to Q#051
Q #150	Project Management & PMO Governance	Is there a preferred on-site or remote delivery model?	See Answer to Q#011
Q #151	Application Development & Support	Does IIE have an existing AI strategy, roadmap, or governance framework that awarded vendors would be expected to align with?	See Answer to Q#030

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #152		Art. 6 — Prior Inventions If we incorporate proprietary frameworks or tools developed prior to this agreement into the deliverables, the agreement grants IIE and the US Government an irrevocable, perpetual, worldwide license to use, reproduce, and make derivative works from those prior inventions "as part of or in connection with the Work."	It can be negotiated during the contractual phase.

	Question: Can the prior IP license be limited to IIE's internal use of the specific deliverables produced under the agreement, and expressly exclude sublicensing to successor contractors or third parties without our written consent?	
Q #153	Vendor holds a valid ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification but does not currently hold a SOC 2 Type 2 attestation. Could you please clarify whether ISO 27001 certification is accepted as a standalone security credential, or whether SOC 2 Type 2 is mandatory for all vendors regardless?	See Answer to Q#039
Q #154	Art. 10 — No Liability Cap The agreement includes mutual indemnity but contains no cap on liability for either party. For a multi-year engagement covering AI systems integrated into IIE's enterprise operations, this represents uncapped exposure on both sides. Question: Can a mutual liability cap be added — typically set at fees paid in the prior 12 months or a fixed agreed amount?	See Answer to Q#152
Q #155	Art. 13 — Confidentiality (One-Sided) Art. 13 requires the contractor to protect IIE's confidential information but imposes no equivalent obligation on IIE to protect the contractor's proprietary methods, code, architectures, or trade secrets. Question: Can a reciprocal confidentiality obligation be added, covering the contractor's IP, methodologies, and pricing information?	See Answer to Q#152

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #156	Contracting & Licensing	Art. 17 — Subcontractor Approval The contractor may not engage any subcontractor or lower-tier consultant without prior written IIE approval, including submission of cost justification and a copy of the proposed subcontract. The agreement does not specify whether approval of a direct subcontractor also covers that subcontractor's own lower-tier workers. Questions: 1. Does approval of a direct	See Answer to Q#88

		subcontractor (e.g., a Cypriot entity) implicitly cover their identified sub-workers, or does each individual at a lower tier require separate IIE approval? 2. Can we draft the subcontract with the Cypriot company and submit it to IIE for approval before signing, in line with the Art. 17 process?	
Q #157	Contracting & Licensing	Art. 18A — Termination for Convenience (No Notice Period) IIE may terminate the agreement at any time, for any reason, by providing written notice. No minimum notice period is specified. The contractor has no equivalent termination-for-convenience right. Questions: 1. Can a mutual termination-for-convenience right be added, allowing the contractor to terminate on written notice as well? 2. Can a minimum notice period — e.g., 30 days — be added for both parties?	See Answer to Q#152
Q #158	Contracting & Licensing	Art. 18B — Cure Period for Breach Upon material breach, the breaching party has only 5 days to cure before the other party may issue a termination notice. For complex IT/AI engagements, a missed deadline or production issue could trigger termination within 15 days total. Question: Can the cure period be extended to 30 days for most breaches, with the 5-day period retained only for payment or confidentiality breaches?	See Answer to Q#152
Q #159	Information Security & Compliance	Our organization is ISO 27001 certified and also SOC 2 Type 1 certified . Based on the requirement that vendors with ISO 27001 certification are requested to provide supporting documentation along with SOC 2 Type 2 attestation , we would like to confirm: Whether our current certifications (ISO 27001 and SOC 2 Type 1) make us eligible to participate in this RFP, and If SOC 2 Type 2 is mandatory at the proposal stage or can be provided at a later stage, if applicable.	See Answer to Q#039
ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #160	Information Security & Compliance	Regarding the IT Security Questionnaire: We understand that an offline Excel version of the NIST CSF assessment can be downloaded via the OneTrust platform by selecting “ Complete Offline Using Excel. ” However, we are currently unable to locate this option on the platform. We would appreciate your guidance on: How to access/download the Excel version of the assessment, or	N/A

If there are any specific steps or permissions required to enable this option

Q #161	Project Management & PMO Governance	just want to confirm that we understand correctly - this RFP is not a request to bid on a specific project with a defined scope & deliverables? IEE is looking to find a partner that can cover different areas within software development and AI correct?	See Answer to Q#102
Q #162	Application Development & Support	Attachment A - Custom Application Development and Maintenance - mainly focuses on Web and Cloud Backend. Are you also interested in mobile app development for iOS, Android (native or cross-platform), IoT or any other areas?	Potentially.
Q #163	Application Development & Support	The RFP requires us to suggest a project approach but there is not project scope defined - goals, target audience, features, timeline, business requirements etc. Given that the approach often depends on the nature of the project - are there any representative use cases or a sample project info that you could share?	See Answer to Q#001
Q #164	Contracting & Licensing	Can you provide any indication on the typical volume and duration of projects where you may need assistance - e.g. how many FTEs per project team, how many weeks or months of timeline for a release?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #165	Contracting & Licensing	Are you open to all payment structures - or have some strict limitations on what we should propose? (Time-and-materials, fixed-price, or milestone-based)?	See Answer to Q#055
Q #166	Project Management & PMO Governance	Do you have any restrictions or hard requirements, thresholds when it comes to Onshore/offshore/hybrid delivery? Any specific data-handling requirements?	See Answer to Q#008

ID #

Topic

Question

Answer

Q #167	Application Development & Support	Are you looking for our team to deliver each assigned project end-to-end? Or will it be a multi-vendor scenario (multiple different teams by platform, tech stack or functional sub-projects)? Or is it more of a scenario where you need us to augment your existing team, in which case our engineers will just work on the tasks from your team's backlog one by one, without true end-to-end project delivery from our side?	See Answer to Q#019
Q #168	Infrastructure & Architecture	Primary cloud — is it Azure across the board, or mixed? We have vast experience with AWS and GCP, but not sure if it's valuable to include it.	See Answer to Q#016
Q #169	Application Integrations	Are there any existing systems we'd integrate with or maintain?	See Answer to Q#023
Q #170	Application Development & Support	Which enterprise data sources for RAG/AI do you currently use?	See Answer to Q#036
Q #171	Application Development & Support	Any specific constrains on the LLM / AI tech stack? E.g. only local on-prem deployment, or only Azure AI service models, or any LLM provider; Only langchan orchestration; etc.? Or is the tech stack up to us?	See Answer to Q#026
Q #172	Project Management & PMO Governance	Could you please confirm the number of vendors IIE intends to empanel/select through this RFP?	See Answer to Q#002
Q #173	Contracting & Licensing	Kindly share details of the current incumbent vendor(s) delivering this scope, along with their pricing structure.	See Answer to Q#006
Q #174	Contracting & Licensing	Could you provide an indicative range of the annual spend for this scope over the past 2-3 years?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #175	Contracting & Licensing	Is there an estimated contract value or not-to-exceed (NTE) budget defined for this engagement?	See Answer to Q#004

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #176	Application Development & Support	Are there any key challenges or improvement areas identified with the current or past service delivery that bidders should consider?	See Answer to Q#69
Q #177	Contracting & Licensing	Can you provide some additional detail around anticipated budget for this effort? The list of services is significant, each with varying levels of depth available. Is there a hard cap or amount of already allocated funds that you have set aside for this effort and for ongoing support?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #178	Contracting & Licensing	Are you currently engaged with an agency for this work? Is that agency participating in this RFP?	See Answer to Q#114,
Q #179	Application Development & Support	Can you identify your top 5 priorities from each of the App Development and AI Solutions lists you provided?	See Answer to Q#69
Q #180	Application Development & Support	Are you able to provide an example of the support request for a representative month so we can better understand skills required?	See Answer to Q#024
Q #181	Project Management & PMO Governance	How much collaboration is expected with the technology department?	Tight collaboration. Working directly with our internal development team.
Q #182	Application Development & Support	Do the current solutions include documentation to minimize the onboarding time?	See Answer to Q#018
Q #183	Application Development & Support	Are there expected SLA's once a solution has been deployed?	See Answer to Q#024
Q #184	Application Development & Support	Post-implementation services include "re-touching and corrections." Can you provide additional detail and context around what that entails?	See Answer to Q#024
Q #185	Application Development & Support	Beyond developing a RAG solution, are there additional problems or projects you have already earmarked for AI solution development?	See Answer to Q#134, Q#69

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #186	Information Security & Compliance	Are there specific User Data Privacy standards you are beholden to? E.g.: GDPR and the like	See Answer to Q#010
Q #187	Project Management & PMO Governance	Is there a preference for local vendors?	See Answer to Q#011
Q #188	Contracting & Licensing	What is the annual budget allocated for this RFP?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #189	Project Management & PMO Governance	Work will be onsite or remote?	See Answer to Q#011
Q #190	Project Management & PMO Governance	Can vendor provide entire services from offshore location (outside US geography)	See Answer to Q#008
Q #191	Contracting & Licensing	Who are previous incumbents on this project?	See Answer to Q #006
Q #192	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	We kindly request a 1-2 week extension of the proposal submission deadline to ensure a thorough and high-quality response.	See update in the cover page of this amendment
Q #193	Contracting & Licensing	What is the total budget for this contract?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #194	Project Management & PMO Governance	Is this a single-vendor or multi-vendor award?	See Answer to Q #102
Q #195	Project Management & PMO Governance	How does IIE expect future engagements to be awarded among selected vendors? Will opportunities be competed among the pool, assigned based on expertise, or distributed through another process?	See Answer to Q#003
Q #196	Application Development & Support	For application modernization and maintenance efforts, can you share a high-level view of the current application landscape, including the approximate number of systems and primary technology stacks involved?	See Answer to Q#013

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #197	Infrastructure & Architecture	The RFP references Microsoft Azure, M365 Copilot, and Copilot Studio. Are these platforms expected to be the default foundation for all projects, or will IIE consider alternative cloud and AI platforms when they are better suited to specific requirements?	See Answer to Q#016
Q #198	Project Management & PMO Governance	Does IIE permit hybrid delivery models that include offshore or nearshore resources, or are there geographic requirements for project personnel?	See Answer to Q#008
Q #199	Contracting & Licensing	For the cost proposal, does IIE prefer pricing by resource level (e.g., Junior, Mid, Senior, Principal) or a single rate per role?	See Answer to Q#057
Q #200	Contracting & Licensing	Should proposed rates be considered fixed ceiling rates throughout the contract term, or may they be adjusted during renewal periods?	See Answer to Q#060
Q #201	Contracting & Licensing	What is the anticipated spend of this contract and how many vendors are expected to award the contract?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #202	Contracting & Licensing	Is this an existing contract? If yes, who are the incumbents and what was the historical spend?	See Answer to Q #006
Q #203	Contracting & Licensing	Could you let us know what the budget is for this work?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #204	Project Management & PMO Governance	Could you let us know if you have a local preference or are you open to a Canadian agency that has done similar work with clients across the United States, with some currently being the States of California, Hawaii, Michigan, Virginia, Colorado and Wyoming?	See Answer to Q#008
Q #205	Project Management & PMO Governance	How many awards are going to be made?	See Answer to Q#002
Q #206	Project Management & PMO Governance	Is the cost proposal just a listing of labor categories and rates?	See Answer to Q#052

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #207	Contracting & Licensing	If a development platform is being proposed that bases its licensing fee off as a fixed fee directly tied to the level of effort (LOE) of the engagement, how should the pricing be reflected?	See Answer to Q#058
Q #208	Contracting & Licensing	Will there be a sample task with a baseline LOE provided to determine the license fee?	See Answer to Q#058
Q #209	Contracting & Licensing	Is there an Estimated Budget or not to exceed amount?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #210	Contracting & Licensing	Can IIE clarify expected volume and frequency of projects under this preferred vendor arrangement?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #211	Contracting & Licensing	Will vendors be engaged on fixed-price, T&M, or hybrid basis?	See Answer to Q#055
Q #212	Contracting & Licensing	Are there any non-negotiable clauses beyond standard procurement terms?	See Answer to Q#152
Q #213	Contracting & Licensing	Must all subcontractors be disclosed at proposal stage or only key ones?	See Answer to Q#88
Q #214	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Is international experience weighted equally with U.S. implementations?	See Answer to Q#89
Q #215	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Can projects older than 3 years be included as supplemental evidence?	See Answer to Q#119
Q #216	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Should resumes of key personnel be included in main proposal or attachments?	Please refer to the RFP.
Q #217	Application Development & Support	Are AWS Bedrock/Google Vertex AI allowed or only Microsoft stack?	See Answer to Q#026
Q #218	Application Development & Support	Is there a preferred enterprise data platform for RAG implementations?	See Answer to Q#038

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #219	Infrastructure & Architecture	Should AI models be hosted in IIE tenant or external SaaS allowed?	See Answer to Q#026
Q #220	Information Security & Compliance	Does IIE already have Responsible AI governance standards?	See Answer to Q#034
Q #221	Application Development & Support	Are .NET/Java/Node.js equally acceptable or is there a preferred stack?	See Answer to Q#021
Q #222	Infrastructure & Architecture	Is there a standardized DevOps toolchain or vendor choice allowed?	See Answer to Q#028
Q #223	Application Development & Support	What are expected SLA response times for production support?	See Answer to Q#024
Q #224	Project Management & PMO Governance	Are milestones predefined or jointly defined post-award?	See Answer to Q#033
Q #225	Contracting & Licensing	Do financials include parent company or standalone entity only?	Parent level is sufficient
Q #226	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	How many references are required and is formal scoring used?	See Answer to Q#050
Q #227	Project Management & PMO Governance	Does inclusion guarantee work or require mini-competition?	See Answer to Q#003
Q #228	Information Security & Compliance	Are certifications in progress acceptable at submission?	See Answer to Q#041
Q #229	Information Security & Compliance	Will vendors access production data or only segregated environments?	See Answer to Q#043
Q #230	Infrastructure & Architecture	Is monitoring tooling already in place or vendor-provided?	See Answer to Q#028
Q #231	Demonstration & Evaluation Criteria	Are there page limits beyond 6MB file size restriction?	See Answer to Q#91

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #232	Information Security & Compliance	Are certifications required or only preferred for key staff?	See Answer to Q#051
Q #233	Application Development & Support	What enterprise systems will feed AI use cases?	See Answer to Q#036
Q #234	Project Management & PMO Governance	Will IIE award multiple vendors or single preferred pool?	See Answer to Q #102
Q #235	Contracting & Licensing	The evaluation of proposals states the following: "Qualifications, credentials, certifications, areas of specialization, and demonstrated experience of proposed technical resources." Could IIE please clarify in which section of the proposal firms are required to provide information about the proposed resources?	See Answer to Q#116
Q #236	Project Management & PMO Governance	Could IIE please clarify if firms will be allowed to replace the proposed personnel for equal or better qualified one in case they become unavailable at the time of service execution?	Yes
Q #237	Contracting & Licensing	In case firms are subcontracting, could IIE please confirm if firms are allowed to showcase experience from services provided by a subcontractor to meet all the required experience?	See Answer to Q#88
Q #238	Project Management & PMO Governance	Could IIE kindly confirm what roles will be required under this solicitation?	See Answer to Q#056
Q #239	Contracting & Licensing	Are firms required to provide all the services stated in Attachment A? Or are firms allowed to bid only for certain services (such as Data integration, transformation, and enterprise data management and Quality assurance, automated testing, and continuous testing practices from a. Custom Application Development and Maintenance)?	See Answer to Q#70
Q #240	Contracting & Licensing	Are firms required to bid for both a. Custom Application Development and Maintenance and b. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Services? Or is providing services only under one of them is allowed?	See Answer to Q#70

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #241	Contracting & Licensing	Considering there is no guaranteed any minimum volume of work, could IIE please clarify what measure should firms input in the Cost sheet, "Unit (hours/days)" column?	See Answer to Q#052
Q #242	Contracting & Licensing	Could IIE please clarify if firms provide a job title-based pricing with hourly rates as cost proposal? If not, could IIE kindly provide guidance on how to provide the cost required?	See Answer to Q#052
Q #243	Project Management & PMO Governance	Is each Offeror required to propose a specific team of professionals, including resumes and corresponding labor rates, as part of the cost proposal? If so, given that the solicitation does not guarantee a minimum volume of work, will the awarded contractors be permitted to add or substitute qualified personnel during the contract term as needs evolve?	See Answer - Q#216 & Q#236
Q #244	Contracting & Licensing	Is commercial experience, in addition to public sector experience, allowed?	Yes
Q #245	Contracting & Licensing	In the evaluation of proposals section, it is stated that firms will be evaluated for financial soundness. Could IIE kindly confirm what documentation is required in order to demonstrate the financial soundness?	Can be demonstrated through years in business, Microsoft Partnership, credit rating, Dun and Bradstreet score, BBB, etc. All vendors will be thoroughly vetted if down selected.
Q #246	Contracting & Licensing	Could IIE kindly elaborate on what certifications are relevant for IIE under this solicitation?	See Answer to Q#051
Q #247	Contracting & Licensing	Could IIE please confirm if MBE certifications issued by the National Minority Supplier Development Council are considered for the evaluation of proposals? If not, what certifications are allowed?	See Answer to Q#130
Q #248	Contracting & Licensing	In the technical proposal, firms are requested references. Could IIE please clarify what information from references firms are required to provide?	See Answer to Q#120
Q #249	Contracting & Licensing	In the technical proposal, firms are requested references. Could IIE please clarify if firms are allowed to use the same references used in section Past Performance and Experience?	See Answer to Q#120

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #250	Project Management & PMO Governance	Could IIE please clarify if providing an overall deliverable-based approach is enough to satisfy the technical, functional, and operational requirements?	See Answer to Q#020
Q #251	Contracting & Licensing	Can IIE provide an estimated annual volume of projects, budget range, or anticipated spend that may be allocated to preferred vendors during the five-year period?	See Answer to Q#004
Q #252	Contracting & Licensing	Does IIE prefer vendors to submit a role-based rate card, blended hourly rates, fixed-price project estimates, or all of the above?	See Answer to Q#055
Q #253	Project Management & PMO Governance	How many vendors does IIE anticipate selecting for the preferred partner pool?	See Answer to Q#002
Q #254	Project Management & PMO Governance	Once vendors are selected, how will individual projects be awarded (e.g., direct assignment, mini-RFP, competitive bid among selected vendors, or rotation basis)?	See Answer to Q#003
Q #255	Project Management & PMO Governance	Does IIE expect vendors to provide dedicated resources, project-based teams, or staff augmentation services on an as-needed basis?	See Answer to Q#073
Q #256	Information Security & Compliance	Are there any restrictions regarding offshore, nearshore, or subcontracted resources for application development, AI services, support, or maintenance activities?	See Answer to Q#008
Q #257	Information Security & Compliance	Can IIE provide additional details regarding its current application ecosystem, cloud platforms, development tools, AI platforms, and technology standards?	See Answer to Q#016
Q #258	Information Security & Compliance	Does IIE currently utilize Microsoft Azure OpenAI, Microsoft Copilot, OpenAI, Anthropic, AWS Bedrock, Google Vertex AI, or other AI platforms that future vendors would be expected to support?	See Answer to Q#031
Q #259	Project Management & PMO Governance	What are the anticipated support expectations for maintenance engagements, including service hours, incident response times, severity levels, and SLA requirements?	See Answer to Q#024

ID #	Topic	Question	Answer
Q #260	Contracting & Licensing	For proposal submission, should vendors provide resumes and detailed profiles of key personnel, or is a general description of organizational capabilities sufficient at this stage?	See Answer to Q#216
Q #261	Information Security & Compliance	Could the IIE please indicate how confidential information should be marked or if I redacted copy is required? (e.g., in page headers/footers, next to the specific section/paragraphs, etc.)	NDA is required
Q #262	Contracting & Licensing	Are electronic signatures allowed?	Yes
Q #263	Contracting & Licensing	Could IIE please clarify whether firms are required to bid on entire categories, or if they may select categories and propose only specific services within those categories?	See Answer to Q#70
Q #264	Project Management & PMO Governance	Could you confirm the submission process and any additional briefing docs?	Please refer to the RFP