

2. Amendment/Modification No. A01	3. Effective Date 09/22/2019	4. Requisition/Purchase Reqn. No. N/A	5. Project No. (if applicable) N/A
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6. Issued By United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Commodity Procurement Staff 1400 Independence Ave SW STOP 0239 Washington, D.C. 20250-0239	7. Administered By (If other than Item 6) See Block 6
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8. Name and Address of Contractor (No., Street, County, and Zip Code)	(X)	9A. Amendment of Solicitation No. 2000007335
	X	9B. Date (See Item 11) 09/18/2020
		10A. Modification of Contract/Order No.
		10B. Date (See Item 13)

Code	Facility Code
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11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS

The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers is extended is not extended. Offers must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by one of the following methods:
 (a) By completing items 8 and 15, and returning 1 copies of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or (c) By separate letter or telegram which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change an offer already submitted, such change may be made by telegram or letter, provided each telegram or letter makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.

12. Accounting and Appropriation Data (if required)
N/A

**13. THIS ITEM APPLIES ONLY TO MODIFICATIONS OF CONTRACT/ORDERS.
IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14.**

(x)	A. This change order is issued pursuant to: (Specify authority) The changes set forth in item 14 are made in the Contract Order No. in item 10A.
	B. The above numbered Contract/Order is modified to reflect the administrative changes (such as changes in paying office, appropriation date, etc.) Set fourth item 14, pursuant to the authority of FAR 43.103 (b)
	C. This supplemental agreement is entered into pursuant to authority of:
	D. Other (Specify type of modification and authority)

E. IMPORTANT: Contractor is not, is required to sign this document and return 1 copies to the issuing office.

14. Description of Amendment/Modification (Organized by UCF section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible.)

The purpose of this amendment is to make changes to the solicitation and provide the answers to questions received via email and during the pre-proposal conference.

1) The questions asked via email and during Preproposal Conference and AMS' answers to them are as follows:

a) Question: Has an Amendment for the Solicitation been issued yet?

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in item 9A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remains unchanged and in full force and effect.

15A. Name and Title of Signer (Type or Print)	16A. Name and title of Contracting Officer (Type or Print)		
	David C. Jackson Contracting Officer		
15B. Contractor/Offeror	15C. Date Signed	16B. United States of America	16C. Date Signed
_____ (Signature of person authorized to sign)		_____ (Signature of Contracting Officer)	

Answer: No Amendment has been issued. The all Questions & Answers will be provided within the Amendment 01 following this conference call within 24 hours. Expect the Amendment 01 to be posted to the AMS Commodity Procurement website.

- b) Question: Is the product to be supplied the company's commercial product?

Answer: Yes, the product is to be supplied using the company's current commercial production.

- c) Question: Can we use our own retail labels to label the product?

Answer: Yes, we allow retail labelling provided it meets all regulatory requirements. Contact Carl Schorder of FSCSD (carl.schroeder@usda.gov) for further questions.

- d) Question: Can frozen bison be offered or does it have to be a freshly frozen carcass?

Answer: There are no restrictions for bison to be frozen or fresh. However, due to shelf-life considerations for Food & Nutrition recipients the product must have been produced within 60 days of delivery.

- e) Question: The requirements stated on Exhibit 1 specifies "Household size lean, frozen ground bison that is the same as is generally available in the commercial marketplace," does the product have to be packaged in a form of a chub," and "Pack size minimum of 1 lb. chub and not to exceed a 2 lb. chub." Unlike the chub which is cylindrical in shape, we package in what is referred to as a "brick", which is rectangular in shape.

Answer: We are requesting vendors submit a description of the type of product they already have commercially available that is within the pack size of a 1lb. not to exceed 2lb. "chub" also now including a "brick" rectangular configuration.

The inclusion of the brick configuration is supported as a common retail package for ground bison, ground lamb and organic or grass-fed ground beef. Similar to the 1-pound ground beef and bison vacuum packaged or packaged in casings and sealed, the "bricks" are also vacuum packaged which meet the RFP proposal requirement.

- f) Question: What are the invoicing and payment procedures? What are the payment terms?

Answer: A new version of the Master Solicitation for Commodity Procurement was published on August 13, 2020. Information regarding invoicing procedures and prompt pay information can be found in clauses 4A52.232-3 and 4A52.232-2.

- g) Question: Is there a format that you would like us to follow for the proposals?

Answer: The proposal shall be submitted via PDF format uploaded into WBSCM as attachments. The documents to be submitted include the SF-1449, Proposal Part 1 - Technical, Part 2 - Management, Part 3 - Past Performance and Part 4- Prices and Constraints. The price and constraint shall be provided using the form on EXHIBIT 2. All other parts can be submitted per the downloadable Exhibit options on the USDA AMS Solicitation and Awards: Bison 2000007335 webpage or may be drafted per the vendors own format, but all shall be uploaded as a PDF version.

- h) Question: Is there a requirement for case weight? The “40 lb. case” mentioned in Section “Proposal Part 1: - Technical Information” on Page 18 is used solely for example, and not a requirement, correct?

Answer: No, there is not a case weight requirement. The 40 lb. case weight was an example. However, we emphasize commercially acceptable and require all Truckloads equal 40,000 lbs.

- i) Question: Are we required to have a food defense audit?

Answer: Yes, all vendors must have a Food Defense Audit and the audit must be approved by bid closing on September 25, 2020. USDA will not grant/accept any waiver requests for the food defense audits. All inquiries concerning audit requirements and scheduling should be forwarded to the email below for clarification.

Food Defense Verification Program Coordinator

QAD.ProgramCoordinator@usda.gov

- j) Question: Who can perform Checkloading at the time of loading? USDA FSIS employee? USDA AMS grading service employee?

A USDA Grader needs to be present at time of loading to facilitate the process.

- k) Question: For the stamping of the container with the USDA Contract Compliance Stamp, do we need to provide the stamp? Who would have control of the stamp and where must the stamp be kept at?

Answer: The USDA Grader has their own stamp they control and bring to the shipping location. The Grader will stamp each box and then write a “shipping certificate” that goes with the load.

- l) Question: What is the labeling requirement for the individual packages and for the outer container (case/carton)? For the individual packages, do we need to have nutritional panel, USDA establishment number, use by date, net weight, full product description, or Safe handling Information? What are the container marking requirements?

Answer: Labeling requirements for the Primary Packaging (Immediate Containers) and Shipping Containers can be found in the AMS Master Solicitation dated August 2020 under FAR Part 4A52.211-4 Commodity/Packaging Labeling Requirements (Mar 2019). Specifics such as but not limited to:

- Company name
- Company/Plant location or FSIS establishment number.
- Ingredient list
- Allergen statement,
- Nutrition Facts Panel (except for foodservice pack products)
- Traceability code

- m) Question: The quantity is large, what if we cannot bid on the full solicitation.

Answer: The quantity is an NTE (Not-To-Exceed), which means we over projected product availability to ensure if we need to order more we are able to do so. Vendors should not bid on line items nor delivery periods that are not good production seasons or will cause a delay in their delivery.

n) Question: Are we required to submit a photo of the product packaging?

Answer: A photo is not required. However, the offeror may provide one to support their proposal.

o) Question: When will I find out if our bid was accepted?

Answer: Bid awards will be announced by midnight, September 30, 2020.