

Questions and Answers during Advertisement for HI A-AD, Saddle Road- West Side (Paving)

July 30, 2012

1. Q: Although no site visit is being held for the above said subject project, please advise on the requirements (if any) to obtain access into the PTA Government Quarry.
 - a. **Answer:** Please see Amendment A001, a Site visit to allow for inspection of the pit is being held. See Amendment A001 for details.
2. Q: In addition, we would like to see the current phase of the project. Please advise what the requirements are to be able to access the project site.
 - a. **Answer:** Please see Amendment A001, a Site visit to allow for inspection of the pit is being held. See Amendment A001 for details.
3. Q: In regards to the subject Invitation For Bid (IFB), page A-i notes the submittal requirements, of which Customer Survey, pages A-iv and A-v is referenced. However following our review of the IFB documents, we could not locate such pages. Therefore, please advise if this is indeed a requirement and, if so, provide such pages.
 - a. **Answer:** This survey has been added to the bid document via Amendment A001.

August 2, 2012

4. Will there be cross sections made available? Especially for the work on Mamalohoa Highway?
 - a. **Answer:** *****The Cross Sections have been added to the Plans Download. Please check again for Cross Sections.*****

August 8, 2012

5. Q: Reference: 31101-0000 STOCKPILED AGGREGATES – qty 23500TON and Spec Section 311 – Stockpiled Aggregates indicates “ scope of work consists of crushing & stockpiling aggregates for the Department of The Army only if the quarry is used on produce other materials for this project”. If the contractor elects not to use PTA quarry as source for this material, is it allowed to supply required aggregate quantity from another source or aggregate material has to be generated from PTA quarry?
 - a. **Answer:** Stockpiled aggregate is required only when material is generated from the PTA quarry. When the PTA quarry is used as a source, the stockpiled aggregate is to be supplied from this generated material.

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6. **Q:** Reference: Special Contract Requirement – Section 105.02 Material Sources (a) indicates that “ The Government-owned PTA quarry is approved for use on this project” under this section all aggregate materials are listed including aggregate for structural concrete and asphalt pavement. Under section 703 Aggregate. 703.01 and 703.02 fine and course aggregate must meet Alkali-Silica reactivity. Test the fine and course aggregate for alkali silica reaction and conform to one of the following (1) through (5). Lithium compounds are not allowed as mitigation. One of the local concrete suppliers ran the ASTM 1260 on aggregate from the PTA quarry and the test results showed that this aggregate is Deleterious. Please confirm the suitability of aggregate from the PTA quarry for structural concrete and all hot mix asphalt.
- a. **Answer:** It is the Contractors responsibility to supply material that conforms to the project specifications. The PTA Quarry Geotechnical Report is available for download.
7. **Q:** Is it allowed to dispose (bury with sufficient cover) any unsuitable soil (Ash) and crushed /milled asphalt materials within the PTA quarry area.
- a. **Answer:** No.
8. **Q:** Is the customer survey requested to be returned within 7 days of bid closing? Or Is the customer survey required to be returned with bid submittals?
- a. **Answer:** The Customer Survey is NOT a “requirement” for bid submission. The customer survey is requested to be turned in within 7 days of the bid submission. While it is not a requirement, it would be helpful for the FHWA to improve the quality of their product if contractors would complete and turn in the survey.
9. **Q:** Do we use the calendar days of Schedule A to calculate the road user administrative costs for Option X on page A-18?
- a. **Answer:** No, you should use the amount of Days Bid for Schedule A when bidding Schedule A, and use the amount of days bid for Option X when bidding Option X. **Page A-18 erroneously says MAX=245 days, this will be changed to 90 Days in Amendment A002 to reflect the MAX=90 days intended for Option X.**

In A+B bidding, the contractor bids the amount of days they need to do the work. The Government has put a cap on the amount of days the contractor is allowed to bid:

1. SCHEDULE A: MAX 245 Calendar Days*
2. OPTION X: MAX 90 Calendar Days*

*these can be found in the IFB on A-4, Bid Schedule Instructions

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10. Q: The IFB keeps referring to CCR Registration for general contractors and small business plan subcontractors. CCR and ORCA are no longer accessible. According to www.SAM.gov all CCR and ORCA records have been transferred to the new SAM site which came on line July 30, 2012. Unfortunately, because the site is brand new, it has been having a lot of problems, is often down for maintenance and is very slow. In addition, all entities with CCR and ORCA records have to start a new account in SAM to access and update their CCR and ORCA legacy records.

The timing of the launch of the new SAM site could make it very difficult for all entities to have their necessary CCR and ORCA type registrations updated before the bid date.

- a. **Answer:** We are aware of the SAMS website issues. This is a low-bid, full and open competition solicitation and, therefore, the information needed from the websites should not impact the pricing or outcome of the bidding process.

During the award process the FHWA will work with the apparent low bidder to collect all of the required information.

August 16, 2012

11. Q: If the contractor elects not to use PTA quarry as a source for aggregate, shall the unit price be entered as “zero” for bid item 31101-0000 listed in bid schedule A & Option X?

- a. **Answer:** Amendment A003 will be issued to clarify these specifications. Aggregate quantity needs are shown in the bid schedule for this contract. In the event the contractor chooses to import aggregate material and not utilize the PTA Quarry, the quantity of material required under Pay Item 31101-XXXX will be zero.

12. Q: Will the subgrade for the mass grading phase [contract HI A-AD 6(6)] be completed to tolerance and available for immediate placement of the base aggregate layer for the contractor or will there be regrading and/or touchup needed for the subgrade prior to placement of the base aggregate layer?

- a. **Answer:** The specification requirement for the Hi A-A-AD 6(6) project is to finish the subgrade surface to within +/- ~~0.05 feet~~ of the design grades. It is intended that the Aggregate base can be placed on the finished subgrade surface.

UPDATE: The tolerance, per FP-03 204.13(c), is +/- 0.10'.

13. Q: Will the contractor be allowed to use “Old Saddle Road” (the portion now in the PTA boundary) to haul aggregate and AC pavement to the project from the Quarry?

- a. **Answer:** Yes, within the project limits.

UPDATE: Per page E17 of the Plans and SCR section 105.02(a)(3), the contractor is allowed access to Ahi Road for hauling and access to the PTA quarry. The contractor is NOT allowed to use any other shown on that map, they are off limits per the military.

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14. Q: Can the contractor construct a by-pass outside the “Right-of-Way” on Military property around the “Box Culvert” crossing area to allow access to the lower portion of the project from the PTA quarry?
- a. **Answer:** A by-pass outside the right of way may require additional environmental clearance, permits, and approval from the army.
15. Q: It is our understanding that any company choosing to use the PTA quarry to crush and/or produce AC mix must comply with State of Hawaii Department of Health regulations for crushing permits, AC hot mix plant permits and any other oil product storage requirements. Is this understanding accurate?
- a. **Answer:** See subsection 105.02 (a)(2), Permits Licenses and Agreements.
16. Q: Will the contractor be allowed to store explosives (for mining at the PTA quarry or on the project site) within the PTA property limits?
- a. **Answer:** See subsection 105.04, Storing and handling of material, of the special contract requirements.
17. Q: It is our understanding that any small business classified as a “Hubzone” company receives a 10% bid preference if they bid as the prime contractor. It is also our understanding that such a business can’t be owned, in part or completely by any other business not classified as a “Hubzone” company, large business or otherwise. Is this understanding accurate?
- a. **Answer:** Yes there is a Hubzone preference in the contract. If a Hubzone contractor does become low-bid, their Hubzone status will be verified during the Award process. All questions regarding Hubzone details should be directed towards the correct agency.
18. Q: Regarding Solicitation No. DTFH68-12-B-00004, Construction of Hi A-AD 6(7), Saddle Road – West Side. Our surety would like to know where on the Bid Bond Form (SF 24) they are allowed to enter the Solicitation number. At the moment the form is pre-filled in the “Invitation No.” box with the Project Number, however there is no location for allotted for the “Solicitation No.”. Is there a specific location that DoT requires the number to be? Thank you for your help.
- a. **Answer:** This will be corrected in Amendment A003.
19. Q: Bid Item - 20420-0000 EMBANKMENT CONSTRUCTION, indicates a qty of 55,000 CY. We do not seem to come up with this qty, we calculated almost half of this qty, please advise if there is any intent to adjust qty of this bid item in upcoming amendment?
- a. **Answer:** The Bid Quantity will not be changed. Please refer to the grading summary.
20. Q: Sheet No. B6 – Grading Summary, this sheet indicates Total Road Excavation qty of 39,029 CY. There is not bid item for road excavation, do we have to include this cost in Bid Item - 20402-0000 SUBEXCAVATION (FOUNDATION PREPARATION IN ASH)?
- a. **Answer:** Payment for excavation is included in 20420-0000, Embankment.
21. Q: In reference to the SB Subcontracting Plan, there is no mention of proposed subcontracting goals in the IFB. Are there proposed subcontracting goals? If so, please provide.
- a. **Answer:** The FHWA does not set the goals for a subcontracting plan. The contractor is encouraged to utilize small business to the maximum extent possible. For further information regarding subcontracting plans, please refer to FAR 52.219-9.

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22. Q: In reference to Notice to Bidders, II. Post Award Information states “If the apparent successful low bidder fails to submit an acceptable subcontracting plan acceptable to the CO within 7 days of bid opening, that bidder may be ineligible for award of the contract.” However, it also states “If the apparent successful low bidder fails to submit an acceptable subcontracting plan with their bid package, that bidder may be ineligible for award of the contract.” Please clarify when the SB Subcontracting Plan is required to be submitted.
- a. **Answer:** This will be addressed in Amendment A003. If the apparent low bidder is a large business and fails to submit a subcontracting plan with their bid they may be ineligible for bid.

August 20, 2012

23. Q: Typical Section plan sheets show a note "Place 3" hot asphalt concrete pavement, Marshall test in two lifts". Since placing a 1-1/2" lift on base course will cause severe cracking and compaction problems, can this requirement be deleted so that the entire 3 inches could be placed in one lift?
- a. **Answer:** The specification will not be changed.
24. Q: Will the contractor be required to pay prevailing wages for all of the trucking from the PTA quarry to the Project Roadway?
- a. **Answer:** Yes. See FAR 22.404.
25. Q: Do you require the subcontracting plan submitted with the bid to be an “original” with an “original” signature?
- a. **Answer:** Please refer to FAR Clause 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan, Alternate I for details on Subcontracting Plan requirements.
26. Q: Addendum 3 was a little unclear to us regarding the “Aggregate Stockpile”; is it ok for bidders to enter a zero on the bid form if they chose not to crush any products from the quarry? It is normally unacceptable for zeros to be entered into such bid forms and grounds for rejection? Please clarify?
- a. **Answer:** *In the event the contractor chooses to import aggregate material and not utilize the PTA Quarry, the quantity of material required under Pay Item 31101-XXXX will be zero.*

If a contractor intends to generate material out of the PTA quarry, they should enter a price for this pay item. If a contractor chooses to import all crushed aggregate materials, then they should enter a zero bid amount. A zero bid for this item will not make the contractor non-responsive.

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27. Q: The portion of “Old Saddle Road” that runs from Ahi Road (PTA designation) to the new portion of the Saddle road under construction is the portion that would be best for hauling AC and aggregate products to the project. Is this portion of “Old Saddle Road” acceptable for use as a haul road?
- a. **Answer:** Page E-17 of the plans, note 6, correctly states and shows the one allowable PTA haul road, “Ahi Road.” No other routes are allowed for hauling.
28. Q: There is a very large stockpile of earth and rock material left over from the previous mass grading contract [HI A-AD 6(6)] near or around station 300+00 on north side of the alignment. It is our understanding that this material is for use on future phases of Saddle Road and can’t be used on this project? And the only stockpiles for use on this project are those noted in the grading summary in the plans which are near the upper portion of the alignment near PTA? Is this understanding correct?
- a. **Answer:** No, this material is intended to be used on this project for the earthwork balance shown in the Grading Summary. Additionally there is the stockpile located between Station 702 and 707.
29. Q: The bid documents provide for the use of an alternate bridge crossing other than the design box culvert option. If the contractor chooses an alternate approach will the design need to be fully reviewed and approved through the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation’s process? If so this could create significant delay?
- a. **Answer:** Two alternatives are approved for this bid item, per section 580.03. Per 580.03(b) the Government is allowed up to 30 days to review the design.
30. Q: If the “Box Culvert” design in the plans is the approved design solution for the project and the GSE approach is the alternate allowed approach, why is the bid item in the proposal form labeled “Alternate Bridge”? Should this item be labeled “Box Culvert” with a separate item labeled “Alternate Bridge”?
- a. **Answer:** The work under Item 580 – Alternate Bridge, consists of furnishing and constructing either a geosynthetic reinforced soil-integrated bridge system (GRS-IBS) or a concrete box culvert bridge.
31. Q: Subsection 154.03 Testing indicates “All acceptance and verification testing will be conducted by the government”.Please clarify if there are any testing will be done by the government. Our understanding that all testing & quality control shall be performed by the contractor, please confirm.
- a. **Answer:** The Government will perform Quality Assurance testing while the Contractor will perform Quality Control and testing.

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32. Q: What's the specification of concrete mix (strength, max aggregate size, W/C ratio...etc)? Reference: Sheet S-2 Note 1 Insert #4 rebar's into top 3 rows of CMU's and Corner CMU's and fill with concrete.
- a. **Answer:** **Note that this particular detail is part of a contractor alternative for either a GRIBS or Box Culvert design.** According to the requirements of Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil Integrated Bridge System Interim Implementation Guide, FHWA publication No. FHWA-HRT-11-026, January 2011, the concrete block wall fill concrete used should be ASTM Class A with 4,000 psi compressive strength.
33. Q: Sheet S-7 – detail D calls for 12” Precast plank & 12” Concrete Topping. Can this section be replaced with a monolithic cast in place slab section (without using precast blanks)?
- a. **Answer:** Please bid according to the design included in the plans.