

**Source Selection Statement for the Mechanical Integrated Services and
Technologies (MIST) Solicitation Number NNG13360855R**

On July 7, 2015, I, Christyl C. Johnson, along with senior officials from Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), met with the Source Evaluation Board (SEB) appointed to evaluate proposals in connection with the Mechanical Integrated Services and Technologies (MIST) acquisition.

Procurement Description

The purpose of the MIST contract is to acquire engineering and related services for the formulation, design, development, fabrication, integration, testing, verification, and operations of space flight and ground system hardware and software, including development and validation of new technologies to enable future space and science missions. The services acquired through the MIST contract will provide mechanical engineering and related services (electrical, instrument, mission, and software) to the Mechanical Systems Division and related organizations throughout GSFC, as required for the formulation, design, development, fabrication, integration, testing, verification, and operations of space flight and ground system hardware and software, including development and validation of new technologies to enable future space and science missions to fulfill the responsibilities of the Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate (AETD).

The MIST Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on May 13, 2013. A total of three (3) Amendments to the RFP were released as follows:

Amendment 1: Revised page 101 to the RFP. In the last paragraph, the words "Section 2 of Attachment B" were changed to read "Section 3 of Attachment B."

Amendment 2: Replaced in its entirety the MIST RFP (Sections B-M), Attachment C, Attachment D, Exhibits A thru C, Exhibits 1A thru 11B, and Enclosure A.

Amendment 3: Revised Section G.10, Section L.14, Section L.15, Attachment D, Exhibit B, Exhibit 1A series, Exhibit 2A series, Exhibit 2B series, Exhibit 5, and Enclosure A.

The resultant contract will be a Cost Plus Fixed Fee (CPFF) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract with an effective ordering period of five (5) years, with no options. A separate contract for the 60-day phase-in period will be issued.

This procurement was conducted as a Small Business Set-Aside Competition under NAICS Code 541712: Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering and Life Sciences. The small business size standard is 1,000 employees. The maximum ordering value inclusive of fee for this procurement, is \$505,000,000.

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Proposals Submitted

On April 28, 2014, NASA received seven timely proposals from the following companies:

ADNET Systems, Inc. (ADNET)
ATA Aerospace, LLC (ATA Aerospace)
Bastion Technologies, Inc. (Bastion)
ERC, Inc. (ERC)
Sierra Lobo, Inc. (Sierra Lobo)
Sigma Space Corporation (Sigma Space)
ST Space, LLC (ST Space)

Evaluation Procedures

The MIST SEB evaluated proposals in accordance with the source selection procedures identified in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 15.3 "Source Selection," and NASA FAR Supplement (NFS) 1815.3. The Source Evaluation Board procedures at NFS 1815.370, NASA Source Evaluation Boards, were applied.

The RFP listed three evaluation factors, Mission Suitability, Cost, and Past Performance. The RFP specified the relative order of importance of these factors as follows:

The Cost Factor is significantly less important than the combined importance of the Mission Suitability Factor and the Past Performance Factor.

As individual Factors, the Cost Factor is less important than the Mission Suitability Factor but more important than the Past Performance Factor.

Mission Suitability has two Subfactors as follows: Subfactor A, Representative Task Orders; and Subfactor B, Management Approach. The available points for each subfactor are set forth below.

Subfactor A	Representative Task Orders	500
Subfactor B	Management Approach	500

The Mission Suitability subfactors and the total Mission Suitability factor were evaluated using the adjectival ratings, definitions, and percentile ranges at NFS 1815.305(a)(3)(A). The maximum points available for each subfactor were multiplied by the assessed percent for each subfactor to derive the score for the particular subfactor.

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The proposed costs of the Government Pricing Model and the rates proposed in Attachment B, Direct Labor Rates, Indirect Rates and Award Matrices, were assessed to determine reasonableness and cost realism. The cost evaluation was conducted in accordance with FAR 15.305(a)(1) and NFS 1815.305(a)(1)(B). Offerors were referred to FAR 2.101(b) for a definition of “cost realism” and to FAR 15.404-1(d) for a discussion of “Cost realism analysis” and “probable cost.” Both the “proposed and probable cost” reflected the offeror’s proposed fee amount. Proposed fee was not adjusted in the probable cost assessment.

Past performance evaluations were based on FAR Part 15 and were conducted in accordance with provision M.5 of the solicitation. As stated in provision M.5, all past performance references must meet the “recent” and minimum average annual cost/fee expenditures criteria for both prime contractor references and significant subcontractor references in order to be evaluated. An offeror’s past performance record indicates the relevant quantitative and qualitative aspects of performing services or delivering products similar in size and content to the requirements of this acquisition.

An offeror’s past performance was assigned an overall confidence rating that reflects a subjective evaluation of the information contained in the written narrative; past performance evaluation input provided through customer questionnaires; and other references. As set forth and described in Section M.5 of the RFP, the applicable level of confidence ratings were: Very High, High, Moderate, Low, Very Low, and Neutral.

For purposes of past performance, the term “offeror” refers to a prime contractor and its significant subcontractors. Accordingly, the past performance of significant subcontractor(s) was also evaluated and attributed to the offeror. The past performance of a significant subcontractor was compared to the work proposed to be performed by that subcontractor, and weighted accordingly in assigning the overall past performance adjectival rating to the offeror. The past performance of the prime contractor was weighted more heavily than any significant subcontractor or combination of significant subcontractors in the overall past performance evaluation.

Detailed Results of the Evaluation

As a result of the evaluation process, the Mission Suitability Subfactor ratings and Total Score are summarized below:

Offeror	Subfactor A	Subfactor B	Total Score
ADNET	Poor	Poor	195
ATA Aerospace	Very Good	Very Good	835
Bastion	Poor	Good	385
ERC	Fair	Fair	325
Sierra Lobo	Good	Good	640
Sigma Space	Good	Fair	485
ST Space	Very Good	Good	795

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Mission Suitability Factor

ADNET

Subfactor A: Representative Task Orders

ADNET received one (1) strength, four (4) weaknesses, four (4) significant weaknesses, and one (1) deficiency resulting in an adjectival rating of Poor for this subfactor.

ADNET received one (1) strength for proposing a sound understanding of the cryocooler procurement risks and mitigations. This enhances the potential for successful performance.

ADNET received four (4) weaknesses in the following areas: 1) inadequate technical approach for Solar Array Drive Assembly (SADA) development; 2) projected hours and skill mix are inappropriate for subtasks in RTO-1 and RTO-2; 3) inadequate thermal qualification levels definition; and 4) inadequate technical approach to optical design of the Earth Resource Imager (ERI) instrument. These weaknesses increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

ADNET's first significant weakness was based on the proposal's failure to identify key government interfaces that increase the risk of failures or damage to flight hardware. The failure to properly identify the Safety and Mission Assurance (SMA) organization and the Thermal branch as government interfaces appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance and reduces the probability of mission success.

ADNET's second significant weakness was for the proposed response to RTO-1, Subtask (b) Contamination Engineering and Thermal Coatings, which fails to show completeness and adequacy in addressing the subtask requirements. There is only a limited discussion on the development of a contamination budget, and incomplete details on the development of the overall contamination engineering approach. ADNET's response provided insufficient detail to substantiate its technical approach. In addition, the proposal does not demonstrate a full and clear understanding of the subtask objectives, thereby appreciably increasing the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

ADNET's third significant weakness was for the response to RTO-2, Structural Analysis Support (A.2.2.2.2 Subtask (b)). There were many inadequate statements regarding finite element analysis and modeling (FEA and FEM), types of analysis that need to be performed on a flight project, the proper structural analysis of mechanical ground support equipment (MGSE), the development and use of a Craig-Bampton (C-B) model, and the performance of and need for in-house coupled loads analysis. This appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

ADNET's fourth significant weakness was for the proposal's failure to provide an independent thermal control system (TCS) architecture for the Earth Resource Imager (ERI) instrument and a complex approach to thermal control that increases the risk of a late design verification of the

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TCS at the end of Phase D. The proposer's response in RTO-1 subtask (a) does not address the ERI Instrument radiator as an independent subsystem. This appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

ADNET received one (1) deficiency for a very unclear, inadequate and/or incomplete response to the RTOs' requirements. The offeror's response to the RTOs provided little to no technical information as to how the proposer would perform the RTO subtasks. Tables of risks and challenges were of a general or administrative nature, subtask statement of work elements were often reworded or repeated with an inadequate technical approach, and the proposal provided an inadequate flow of activities that includes schedule, milestones, and deliverables. The response substantially failed to demonstrate a technical approach to the RTO subtasks and therefore it is unclear to the Government if the proposer can perform the duties required by the RFP. This increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance to an unacceptable level.

Subfactor B: Management Approach

ADNET received one (1) weakness, and one (1) deficiency, resulting in an adjectival rating of Poor for this subfactor.

ADNET's one (1) weakness is based on the CBORE scenario lacking sufficient technical and risk discussion. This increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

The proposal received one (1) deficiency for failing to completely and effectively address specifics within its Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) on how quality will be managed relative to the MIST contract (hardware, software, and critical GSE). Therefore, the Government was unable to evaluate the effectiveness of the QAP which increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance to an unacceptable level.

ATA

Subfactor A: Representative Task Orders

ATA received one (1) significant strength, three (3) strengths, and two (2) weaknesses, resulting in an adjectival rating of Very Good for this subfactor.

ATA's one (1) significant strength was based on a comprehensive understanding of the Falcon 1e launch vehicle and how the limitations of the Falcon 1 Launch Vehicle Payload User's Guide impact the MLO mission (RTO-2). The proposal discusses specifics such as how limited flight heritage hinders the development of flight loads; provides a comprehensive understanding of the payload users guide and the specific impact to payloads; and discusses possible options with a similar SpaceX launch vehicle. The proposal shows a thorough understanding of how the launch vehicle directly impacts the design, analysis, and testing of an observatory such as MLO. This greatly enhances the potential for successful performance.

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ATA received three (3) strengths in the following areas: 1) sound technical approach to thermal control system; 2) noteworthy approach for MLO mission integration and testing operations; and 3) sound understanding of importance of multidisciplinary interdependencies. These strengths enhance the potential for successful performance.

ATA received two (2) weaknesses in the following areas: 1) inadequate skill mix; and 2) lack of realism and reasonableness in the proposed SADA assembly environment. These weaknesses increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Subfactor B: Management Approach

ATA received one (1) significant strength, four (4) strengths, and one (1) weakness, resulting in an adjectival rating of Very Good for this subfactor.

ATA received one (1) significant strength based on an exceptional programmatic and technical recovery plan for the late delivery of the CBORE instrument. All required recovery elements are included in the response; assumptions are comprehensive and insightful; a realistic and comprehensive recovery schedule is developed; accurate and complete technical details related to structural analysis and sine vibration testing are discussed; alternate recovery plans and trade studies are included; a comprehensive risk assessment is provided; and details of the technical risks and difficulties to the programmatic recovery plan is presented. The proposal provided clear and insightful specifics on how to manage both the technical and programmatic aspects of the scenario, thus greatly enhancing the potential for successful contract performance.

ATA received four (4) strengths in the following areas: 1) detailed hiring plan and associate staff program; 2) good understanding of safety and health requirements at GSFC; 3) favorable use of software management tools; and 4) a well-developed phase-in plan. These strengths enhance the potential for successful performance.

ATA received one (1) weakness for incomplete position descriptions for some of the proposed labor categories. This increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Bastion

Subfactor A: Representative Task Orders

Bastion received one (1) strength, three (3) weaknesses, and four (4) significant weaknesses, resulting in an adjectival rating of Poor for this subfactor.

Bastion received one (1) strength based on a favorable thermal technical approach. This enhances the potential for successful performance.

Bastion received three (3) weaknesses in the following areas: 1) incomplete, inaccurate, and unclear RTO flow of activities; 2) inadequate recognition of technical risks in RTO-2; and

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3) Inadequate detail in the technical approach for the Solar Array Drive Assembly. These weaknesses increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Bastion's first significant weakness was for the proposal's response to RTO-1, Subtask (b) Contamination Engineering and Thermal Coatings that failed to demonstrate a clear and full understanding of the subtask requirements. The overall technical approach presented has insufficient detail which increases the risk of ERI failing to meet its Science Objectives, appreciably increasing the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Bastion's second significant weakness was for proposing an inadequate design and fabrication optical system technical approach and failure to demonstrate an understanding of optical system problems and risks. The approach is high level, non-ERI specific, and inadequately addresses the tasks to be performed. This combination of an inadequate technical approach to the RTO subtasks and a failure to demonstrate understanding of optical system challenges appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Bastion's third significant weakness was for proposing a technical approach in RTO-2 subtasks (a), (b) and (d) that is inadequate and incomplete. The proposal's overall approach to these three subtasks provides generic and administrative-level responses to the subtask SOW elements without providing adequate context and technical detail as to how the specific requirements of the MLO project presented in the RTOs will be approached. This appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Bastion's fourth significant weakness was based on the proposal's unclear or erroneous statements in many responses to RTO-2. These statements indicate a lack of understanding of how to perform important analysis and testing, which could hinder completion of contract tasks. The proposal inadequately describes the capabilities needed to perform the advanced and complex structural analyses required to design, analyze, and fully qualify spaceflight hardware, or to perform mass properties testing of spaceflight hardware. This appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Subfactor B: Management Approach

Bastion received two (2) strengths, and two (2) weaknesses, resulting in an adjectival rating of Good for this subfactor.

Bastion received two (2) strengths in the following areas: 1) favorable contract-wide management initiatives to achieve efficiencies; and 2) commendable training program in total compensation plan. These strengths enhance the potential for successful performance.

Bastion received two (2) weaknesses in the following areas: 1) inadequate description of the quality assurance manager; and 2) improperly referenced document in quality assurance. These weaknesses increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

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ERC

Subfactor A: Representative Task Orders

ERC received eight (8) weaknesses, and two (2) significant weaknesses, resulting in an adjectival rating of Fair for this subfactor.

ERC received eight (8) weaknesses in the following areas: 1) unclear identification of technical risks; 2) inadequate flow of activities from start to completion; 3) inadequate demonstration of a technical approach for thermal control system development plan; 4) lack of clear and full understanding of contamination engineering and thermal coatings; 5) inaccurate representation/understanding of Government interface with mission assurance; 6) inadequate technical approach to the optical design process; 7) unclear and inadequate mechanical analysis technical approach; and 8) an inadequate technical approach for the Solar Array Drive Assembly. These weaknesses increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

ERC's first significant weakness was for proposing unrealistic and inadequate staffing plans. The proposal provides inadequate hours for a number of subtasks and inadequate justification for the staffing plans in RTO-1 and RTO-2. ERC's failure to substantiate the need for labor categories, hours, and phasing increases risk of increased cost due to inappropriate staffing of a project and appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

ERC's second significant weakness is based on the proposed response to cryogenic subtasks that substantially fails to demonstrate understanding of the technical objectives. The proposal additionally fails to provide a specific technical approach to provide cooling of the ERI detectors. This failure appreciably increases the risk of adverse schedule impacts, the possibility that an inadequate cryocooler is selected for the ERI instrument, which would lead to science objective failures, and appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Subfactor B: Management Approach

ERC received one (1) strength, six (6) weaknesses, and one (1) significant weakness, resulting in an adjectival rating of Fair for this subfactor.

ERC received one (1) strength based on favorable contract-wide initiatives to achieve efficiencies. This enhances the potential for successful performance.

ERC received six (6) weaknesses in the following areas: 1) ambiguous branch liaison duties; 2) inadequate subcontracting strategy; 3) inadequate programmatic approach to the CBORE scenario; 4) inadequate demonstration of compliance with DD254 security requirements; 5) inadequate independence for the quality and safety manager; and 6) applicable quality assurance documents inadequately cited. These weaknesses increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

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ERC received one (1) significant weakness for the proposed response to the CBORE scenario, which failed to adequately address the technical requirements of the recovery. The response fails to adequately address the offeror's own programmatic scheduling in detail, which is paramount in any recovery process regarding late delivery of flight hardware. The proposal lacks adequate technical detail and understanding. Certain details included in the proposal are not fully explained and are unclear, thus appreciably increasing the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Sierra Lobo

Subfactor A: Representative Task Orders

Sierra Lobo received one (1) significant strength, four (4) strengths, one (1) weaknesses, and one (1) significant weakness, resulting in an adjectival rating of Good for this subfactor.

Sierra Lobo received one (1) significant strength for proposing a comprehensive technical approach for the cryogenic subtasks in RTO-1. The proposal provides insightful commentary on the challenges of the cryocooler, associated hardware, and provides very detailed responses to specific tasks including the preliminary design study, detector interface, cryocooler procurement and test, conductive pathways, cryogenic thermometry, and GSE dewar design. The comprehensive technical approach of the proposal greatly enhances the potential for successful contract performance.

Sierra Lobo received four (4) strengths in the following areas: 1) a sound understanding of the technical objectives, issues and risks for producing the optical subsystem; 2) a well-developed and sound technical approach for designing, assembling, and testing the optical subsystem; 3) a sound technical approach for RTO-1 subtask (a), thermal control system design, analysis, and development; and 4) a strong understanding of RTO-2's overall complexity of the MLO mission and associated challenges. These strengths enhance the potential for successful performance.

Sierra Lobo received one (1) weakness for an inadequate technical approach for the contamination subtask. This increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Sierra Lobo received one (1) significant weakness for proposing an inadequate justification for the staffing plan provided for RTO-1 and RTO-2. The proposal does not adequately substantiate the need for labor categories, or why the support goes up or down during the task period of performance. The proposal summarizes government provided position descriptions. Re-stating the RFP position descriptions does not demonstrate understanding of the required staffing and skill mix for different tasks at different times during the project lifecycle. The numerous staffing issues appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

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Subfactor B: Management Approach

Sierra Lobo received four (4) strengths, and one (1) weaknesses, resulting in an adjectival rating of Good for this subfactor.

Sierra Lobo received four (4) strengths in the following areas: 1) profit investments to improve MIST services; 2) commendable leave compensation for incumbent employees; 3) robust quality assurance plan with both ISO 9001 and AS9100 certification; and 4) sound safety and health plan. These strengths enhance the potential for successful performance.

Sierra Lobo received one (1) weakness for an inadequate response to the CBORE scenario. This increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Sigma Space

Subfactor A: Representative Task Orders

Sigma Space received five (5) strengths, and two (2) weaknesses, and one (1) significant weakness, resulting in an adjectival rating of Good for this subfactor.

Sigma Space received five (5) strengths in the following areas: 1) detailed flow of activities for ERI instrument development; 2) detailed technical approach to the cryogenic and ADR subtasks; 3) a sound technical approach to the thermal control system design; 4) a well-developed technical approach to the SADA design and life testing subtasks; and 5) good identification and management of critical issues for ERI subtasks. These strengths enhance the potential for successful performance.

Sigma Space received two (2) weakness in the following areas: 1) provided inadequate staffing and skill mix for RTO-2 subtasks (a), (b), and (d); and 2) inadequate technical approach and staffing for the integration and assembly of the optical subsystem for RTO-1 subtask (e). These weaknesses increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Sigma Space received one (1) significant weakness based on the proposed technical approach in RTO-2 subtasks (a), (b), (c) and (d) that is inadequate, and has an incorrect assumption in subtask (c). The proposal's overall approach to these subtasks is generic without providing adequate context and technical detail as to how Sigma Space will solve the specific requirements of the MLO project presented in RTO-2, thus appreciably increasing the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Subfactor B: Management Approach

Sigma Space received three (3) strengths, and three (3) weaknesses, and one (1) significant weakness, resulting in an adjectival rating of Fair for this subfactor.

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Sigma Space received three (3) strengths in the following areas: 1) favorable investment in critical skills; 2) robust total compensation plan benefits; and 3) favorable safety and health plan. These strengths enhance the potential for successful performance.

Sigma Space received three (3) weaknesses in the following areas: 1) inadequate process to resolve priority conflicts; 2) incomplete program risk assessment; and 3) inadequate technical and programmatic response to the CBORE scenario. These weaknesses increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Sigma Space's one (1) significant weakness is based on the proposal's failure to demonstrate its compliance to the Aerospace Standard (AS) AS9100. The proposal also failed correctly to identify and mention its compliance to the applicable Mission Assurance Requirements Document or other reference documents in the solicitation and the QAP includes numerous outdated and superseded document references throughout. Failure to comply with the proper standards can result in the fabrication of hardware and systems that fail to meet performance requirements or fail in operation. This appreciably increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

ST Space

Subfactor A: Representative Task Orders

ST Space received one (1) significant strength, three (3) strengths, and two (2) weaknesses, resulting in an adjectival rating of Very Good for this subfactor.

ST Space's one (1) significant strength was for the proposal's very good technical background information for the overall MLO mission in support of its technical approach to RTO-2. This background information includes conceptual graphics of a possible MLO observatory and its subsystems, relevant and effective assumptions, and a complete and effective integration and test flow diagram. The offeror's proposed approach shows a high level of mechanical engineering expertise and knowledge which greatly enhances the potential for successful contract performance.

ST Space received three (3) strengths in the following areas: 1) a sound technical approach to RTO-1; 2) a sound technical approach to thermal testing; and 3) a well-developed technical approach to the SADA design. These strengths enhance the potential for successful performance.

ST Space received two (2) weaknesses in the following areas: 1) inadequate technical approach and staffing I&T activities; 2) an inadequate technical approach to contamination control analysis. These weaknesses increase the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

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Subfactor B: Management Approach

ST Space received three (3) strengths, and one (1) weakness, resulting in an adjectival rating of Good for this subfactor.

ST Space received three (3) strengths in the following areas: 1) investment of fee to identify savings; 2) sound phase-in plan; and 3) well-developed total compensation plan approach to staffing, maintaining, and augmenting the workforce. These strengths enhance the potential for successful performance.

ST Space received one (1) weakness for the failure to provide position descriptions and qualifications for some of the proposed labor categories. This increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

Cost Factor

Upward or downward adjustments were made to the proposed costs based on the offeror's approach, DCAA's analysis and input, and the SEB's evaluation of the appropriate probable cost as a result of the assessment of cost realism. Based on the above, the evaluation team made direct labor and indirect costs adjustments to all offerors resulting in minor cost adjustments to ADNET, ATA, Bastion, ERC, Sigma Space, and ST Space, and a moderate adjustment to Sierra Lobo. The results of the SEB's probable cost analysis, from the lowest probable cost to the highest, are as follows: ERC, ATA, Sigma Space, Sierra Lobo, Bastion, ST Space, and ADNET.

Past Performance Factor

The MIST Source Evaluation Board made a subjective evaluation of the information contained in the written narrative; past performance evaluation input provided through customer questionnaires; and other references. Based on the SEB's past performance evaluation, the SEB assigned an overall level of confidence rating to each offeror, as shown below:

Past Performance Level of Confidence	
Offeror	Rating
ADNET	High
ATA	Very High
Bastion	Very High
ERC	Very High
Sierra Lobo	Moderate
Sigma Space	Very High
ST Space	Very High

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ADNET

ADNET was assigned an overall confidence level rating of High. The overall relevance of ADNET's reference contracts was rated high with overall performance rated very high. The significant subcontractors demonstrated moderate to very high relevance with performance ratings of high to very high. Based on the offeror's performance record, there is a High level of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort.

ATA

ATA was assigned an overall confidence level rating of Very High. The overall relevance of ATA's reference contracts was rated low to very high with overall performance rated primarily very high. The significant subcontractor demonstrated very high relevance with performance ratings of very high. Based on the offeror's performance record, there is a Very High level of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort.

Bastion

Bastion was assigned an overall confidence level rating of Very High. The overall relevance of Bastion's reference contracts was rated low to very high with overall performance rated very high. The significant subcontractors demonstrated high to very high relevance with performance ratings of very high. Based on the offeror's performance record, there is a Very High level of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort.

ERC

ERC was assigned an overall confidence level rating of Very High. The overall relevance of ERC's reference contracts was rated low to very high with overall performance rated very high. There were no significant subcontractors proposed. Based on the offeror's performance record, there is a Very High level of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort.

Sierra Lobo

Sierra Lobo was assigned an overall confidence level rating of Moderate. The overall relevance of Sierra Lobo's reference contracts was rated moderate with overall performance rated very high. The significant subcontractor demonstrated moderate to high relevance with performance ratings of very high. Based on the offeror's performance record, there is a Moderate level of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort.

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Sigma Space

Sigma Space was assigned an overall confidence level rating of Very High. The overall relevance of Sigma Space's reference contract was rated very high with overall performance rated very high. The significant subcontractors demonstrated moderate to very high relevance with performance ratings primarily very high. Based on the offeror's performance record, there is a Very High level of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort.

ST Space

ST Space was assigned an overall confidence level rating of Very High. The overall relevance of ST Space's reference contracts was rated moderate to very high with overall performance rated very high. The significant subcontractors demonstrated low to high relevance with performance ratings very high. Based on the offeror's performance record, there is a Very High level of confidence that the offeror will successfully perform the required effort.

Decision

As the Source Selection Authority (SSA) for this procurement, I carefully reviewed the Source Evaluation Board's documentation entitled "Presentation to the Source Selection Authority, Mechanical Integrated Services and Technologies (MIST)." On July 7, 2015, I met with the MIST Source Evaluation Board (SEB), along with several ex-officio members, to hear the SEB's findings and evaluation. I determined that the findings presented by the SEB, as documented in its presentation and the accompanying "MIST Cost Evaluation Report" were detailed, consistent with the evaluation criteria in the MIST RFP, and provided a clear description of the merits of each proposal. I discussed with the SEB with regard to its rationale for the findings and the adjectival ratings and scores for the mission suitability subfactors, and also discussed the rationale for the evaluation of cost and past performance. Further, I solicited the views of my ex-officio members in their areas of expertise. I determined that the findings were reasonable and valid for the purpose of making a selection decision. I accept the findings from the SEB and concur with the contracting officer that a competitive range determination and discussions are not necessary.

In determining which proposal offered the best value to NASA, I referred to the relative order of importance of the three evaluation factors as specified in the RFP.

"The Cost/Price Factor is significantly less important than the combined importance of the Mission Suitability Factor and the Past Performance Factor. As

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individual Factors, the Cost Factor is less important than the Mission Suitability Factor but more important than the Past Performance Factor.”

Regarding the Mission Suitability Factor, I noted that the two highest rated proposals, ATA and ST Space, received significantly higher ratings and scores than the proposals of the other five offerors. In general, both the ATA and ST Space proposals offered significant benefits in their Mission Suitability Factor with numerous strengths and few weaknesses in the Mission Suitability Subfactors. In contrast, the ADNET, Bastion, ERC, Sierra Lobo, and Sigma Space proposals all had one or more significant weaknesses and/or deficiencies in their Mission Suitability evaluation. This made ADNET, Bastion, ERC, Sierra Lobo, and Sigma Space proposals less competitive in the Mission Suitability Factor. Further, these five proposals did not have significant Cost or Past Performance advantages to offset the significant Mission Suitability advantages of the ATA and ST Space proposals. Therefore, the remainder of my decision focused on the two most competitive proposals, ATA and ST Space.

For Subfactor A (Representative Task Orders), both ATA and ST Space performed well, receiving Very Good ratings in this subfactor. I noted that ATA received a significant strength in RTO-2 for its detailed and comprehensive understanding of how to address the limitations of the Falcon 1e Launch Vehicle User’s Guide and the use of couple loads analysis for the derivation of the launch vehicle sine vibration environment which provides an extremely high degree of confidence that ATA would be able to perform these duties under the contract. I also noted that ST Space received a significant strength in RTO-2 for its very good technical approach which included technical background information for the overall MLO mission which provides confidence that ST Space would be able to provide a high level of mechanical engineering expertise and knowledge under the MIST contract. I further examined the respective strengths (3) and weaknesses (2) these offerors received, and found no meaningful discriminators within those strengths and weaknesses for these highly rated offerors.

For Subfactor B (Management Approach), I did find a discernable difference between the proposals from ATA and ST Space. The ATA proposal was rated as Very Good with one significant strength, four strengths, and one weakness; whereas ST Space was rated Good with no significant strengths, three strengths, and one weakness. ATA, the only offeror to receive a significant strength in Subfactor B, received a significant strength for its exceptional programmatic and technical recovery plan for the late delivery of the CBORE instrument as described in the Scenario. I was impressed with ATA’s significant strength for its exceptionally comprehensive response that provided clear and insightful specifics on how to manage both the technical and programmatic aspects of the scenario, thus greatly enhancing the potential for successful contract performance. I noted that the ATA proposal also received four strengths in Subfactor B based on its staffing plan, understanding of Safety & Health requirements, software

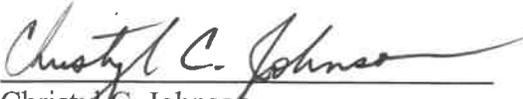
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management tools, and a well-developed phase-in plan. Although ATA received a weakness for not providing adequate position descriptions for some of the proposed labor categories, I found this to be a relatively minor weakness that did not significantly detract from the very good overall management approach. Although ST Space offered a good management approach and received a Good rating in Subfactor B, this and no other strengths identified in Subfactor B of the ST Space proposal, rose to the level of a significant strength. I noted that ST Space received strengths for its fee investment to identify savings, sound phase-in plan, and well developed total compensation plan approach. The one weakness resulted from not providing position descriptions for some labor categories which did not significantly detract from ST Space's good overall management approach. In comparing the two offerors, I found ATA's significant strength to be a unique discriminator as ATA was the only offeror to demonstrate an exceptional programmatic and technical recovery plan for the CBORE instrument. Therefore, in my review of Subfactor B, I did find a discriminator between ATA's Very Good rating compared to ST Space's Good rating.

Regarding the cost evaluation, I noted that ATA had the second lowest probable cost, while ST Space had the sixth lowest probable cost.

Regarding the past performance evaluation, I noted that both ATA and ST Space received a Very High Level of Confidence rating.

Finally, I carefully considered the findings in relation to the evaluation criteria in the RFP, and exercised my independent judgment regarding the significance of the findings as discriminators between the proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria in the RFP. While the proposals from ATA and ST Space were both highly competitive, the ATA proposal presented a clear technical advantage. Its Mission Suitability evaluation, particularly the Subfactor B significant strength for clear and insightful specifics on how to manage both the technical and programmatic aspects of performance, outweighed the benefits associated with the ST Space proposal. ATA's proposal was also more cost competitive than that from ST Space. In view of the preceding discussion, and in light of the evaluation factors, I select ATA Aerospace for award of the MIST contract.



Christyl C. Johnson
Source Selection Authority