

DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT

OPERATOR SELECTION FOR TWO AUXILIARY GENERAL PURPOSE OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH (AGOR) SHIPS (AGOR 27 AND AGOR 28)

I. INTRODUCTION

This notice is an announcement for the competitive, merit-based selection of operators for the operation of two Ocean Class research ships, Auxiliary General Purpose Oceanographic Research (AGOR) 27 and AGOR 28. A formal Request for Proposals (RFP), Broad Area Announcement (BAA), other solicitation or additional information regarding this announcement will not be issued.

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) will not issue paper copies of this announcement. It is the policy of ONR to treat all proposals as sensitive, competitive information and to disclose their contents only for the purposes of evaluation. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement will not be returned. The ONR provides no funding for direct reimbursement of proposal development costs.

This Announcement covers only the selection of the operating institutions for each ship.

1. **Agency Name.** Office of Naval Research (ONR)
2. **Title.** Operator Selection for Two Auxiliary General Purpose Oceanographic Research (AGOR) Ships (AGOR 27 and AGOR 28)
3. **Program Name.** OCEAN CLASS AGOR
4. **Response Date.** Offerors are responsible for submitting proposals, revisions and modifications, so as to reach the Government office designated in this announcement in accordance with the submission process in Section IV "APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION", paragraph (b) and by the time designated below.
 - (a) Preliminary Indication of Interest: [Release of Final Announcement + 30 days]
 - (b) Proposals: 5 P.M. Eastern Time, [Release of Final Announcement + 60 days]
5. **Description.** The Office of Naval Research (ONR) invites proposals for the operation of two Ocean Class research ships, AGOR 27 and AGOR 28.

The Government seeks to further enable U.S. ocean science experimental capability by providing superior facilities and stabilizing, or reducing, overall Federal operational costs anticipated by the University National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) fleet. To implement this goal, the Office of Naval Research (ONR), which serves as the mission sponsor for the design and construction of two vessels, seeks operators of these ocean science research ships for use by U.S. academic institutions to meet Navy, national, and worldwide research and data collection requirements. Each of these ships is meant to displace existing ships in the UNOLS academic

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fleet. These ships will be modern, mono-hull research ships capable of performing integrated and interdisciplinary oceanographic research in areas ranging from the shallow coastal and continental shelf areas to oceans worldwide. Both ships will be of the same design and will meet the specifications cited in solicitation N00024-09-R-2212, entitled “Ocean Class Auxiliary General Oceanographic Research Vessel (Ocean Class AGOR)”, which is accessible at <https://www.fbo.gov>. The ship acquisition, managed by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), is a two-phase procurement. Phase I will contract for a Preliminary/Contract Design with the award of multiple firm-fixed price contracts, and Phase II will down-select to a single contractor for Detail Design and Construction of the lead ship with an option for one (1) follow-on ship. The NAVSEA Acquisition is anticipated to follow the schedule contained in Attachment 1 (“Ocean Class AGOR Acquisition Schedule”), with delivery of AGOR 27 in 2nd Qtr Fiscal Year 2014 and AGOR 28 in 4th Qtr FY2014.

6. Points of Contact. Any questions regarding this Announcement must be provided to the Programmatic Point of Contact and Business Point of Contact listed below. All questions shall be submitted in writing by electronic mail with “ONR AGOR OPERATOR SELECTION” appearing in the subject line. Answers to questions submitted in response to this Announcement will be addressed in the form of an Amendment and will be posted weekly to the ONR Code 32 Web page http://www.onr.navy.mil/sci_tech/32/.

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7. Instrument Types.

(a) Upon Selection: A Letter of Selection will be issued to designate the institution, or formal consortium of institutions, selected as the operator for each AGOR. Selection of the institution to operate this ship will not imply that its staff will have exclusive or favored access to ship use.

(b) Post-Selection: A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be negotiated between ONR and the selected institutions to provide guidelines for the period from selection of the operator through delivery of the vessel to the Navy, through delivery of the vessel(s) to the Operator.

(c) At or About Ship Delivery to Operator: A five year bareboat charter (lease) with provisions for renewal will be executed with each operator institution, or formal consortium of

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institutions, selected under this announcement. Selected operators should be willing and able to enter into a contractual agreement of this type with the Navy, and to discharge the responsibilities and commitments prescribed.

8. Other Information/Background.

Twenty-two ships operated by some 17 U.S. academic research institutions constitute the UNOLS “academic research fleet”. These ships are used primarily by scientists at these and other academic institutions to carry out research projects funded by the Navy, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other federal, state and local agencies. As per the Federal Oceanographic Fleet Status Report published in December 2007 and the UNOLS Fleet Replacement Plan 2009, the Navy will provide no more than six Global or Ocean Class research ships to the academic fleet in 2015. Two Navy-owned ships are expected to be replaced in the Navy’s inventory by AGORs 27 and 28. The continuing need for large, general purpose research ships stems from Navy's requirements for interdisciplinary research on an all-season, worldwide basis.

Access to the academic fleet is facilitated through UNOLS, which is an independent organization of ship-operating, oceanographic research institutions. Under UNOLS guidelines, qualified, funded scientists from all U.S. institutions are assured access to ship time on UNOLS vessels that are appropriate to their research needs.

ONR support for ship operations and maintenance is closely tied to the requirements for ONR supported research programs. Neither operational funds nor research project funds are provided under this solicitation. Annual ship operating support is provided competitively through the normal research proposal and review processes within ONR and NSF, and through contracts, grants and other arrangements between the operating institutions and other federal, state, and private entities.

9. Scope of Proposals.

The objective of this competitive award is to select the most appropriate institutions to operate the new vessels on behalf of the U.S. ocean science community. Offerors seeking selection as the vessel operator must demonstrate the existence of, or potential for, a strong research program which supports the program goals, fully utilizes the vessel, and sustains its operating and maintenance costs. Note: As used herein, "offeror" refers to the entity (e.g., single institution or the formal consortium of institutions) submitting a proposal in response to this announcement.

II. SELECTION OF OPERATORS

The Government anticipates selection of two institutions or formal consortiums of institutions under this announcement. A separate selection will be made for the operation of each ship (AGOR 27 and 28). A single institution or consortium of institutions will not be selected to operate both vessels.

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Selection of operators under this announcement does not assure that vessels will be constructed. Further, the Government's option to build AGOR 28 under a separate Navy contract option is not anticipated to be exercised until 2012. Operation of AGOR 28 by the institution or consortium of institutions selected under this announcement is contingent on the Navy's exercise of the option to construct AGOR 28.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

To be considered for selection, an offeror must meet the following minimum requirements.

1. Offeror must be a United States academic institution or formal consortium of U.S. academic institutions currently conducting graduate level research programs in the ocean sciences. A proposal from a formal consortium of U.S. institutions (rather than a single institution) must include a final, signed consortium agreement among the parties which identifies the lead institution, and which outlines their understanding of the requirements stated in this solicitation and expressing their intent to jointly support the research vessel's operations and maintenance throughout the initial five-year charter period;
2. Offeror must have experience in operating ocean science research vessels;
3. Offeror must be able to provide suitable docking, staging, and storage facilities;
4. Offeror must nominate at least one current Global or Intermediate Class UNOLS research vessel for turn-in, which ONR anticipates would be removed from the academic fleet prior to AGOR 27 and 28 delivery;
5. Offeror must either be a member of UNOLS or meet the requirements for, and apply for, full membership; and
6. Offeror must commit to participate in management and technical oversight during the NAVSEA design, procurement, construction, trials, post-shipyard delivery activities, and follow-on planning for operation and maintenance of the vessels. Selected operators will
 - (a) Attend meetings and reviews during the design phase and at the shipyard during the construction phase. The Government anticipates two to three meetings or reviews per quarter in Washington DC or on-site at the vessel designer's location commencing with the award of the NAVSEA design contracts and ending at the completion of the post-shipyard delivery activities;
 - (b) Provide a full-time representative at the shipyard during the construction phase;
 - (c) Participate in the vessel's christening and delivery activities;
 - (d) Support pre-delivery activities, such as builder's and acceptance trials;
 - (e) Support and coordinate activities after delivery of the vessel(s) to the Navy, including the fitting out availability (4 weeks) product acceptance tests (30 days), final contract trials (2

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weeks), and the post-shakedown availability (10 weeks). These activities normally occur within one year after ship delivery.

(f) Finalize Operator's operations and maintenance plans for the initial period of operation upon delivery to the Operator.

IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Application, Submission and Notification Process

(a) Preliminary Indication of Interest. Potential offerors are requested to inform the Office of Naval Research points of contact by the date in Section I, paragraph 4(a) ("RESPONSE DATE") of their intent to submit a proposal. This notice is requested in order to ensure adequate planning for review of proposals; it does not constitute a commitment to submit a proposal.

(b) Proposal Submission. The due date for receipt of full proposals is provided in Section I, paragraph 4(b) ("RESPONSE DATE"). Submit proposals using the following process.

(1) Upload the proposal using the form on the (To be Provided) website.

(2) Upload your proposal directly to the Office of Naval Research. All fields in the form are required to be completed. Your completed package should also include a signed, scanned proposal cover sheet with the signature of your authorized organizational representative. Submit ONE FILE per proposal in PDF format to include all attachments.

(3) Use the naming convention below for all uploaded proposals:

*Convention: (To be Provided)

*Example: (To be Provided)

(4) Once a document has been submitted, a "Thank You" page will appear and an email will be sent to the address provided. If you do not receive an email confirmation, your file has not been properly received.

(c) Notification. Operator selection is expected to be completed on or about 15 Dec 2009. Each Offeror will be notified of its selection or non-selection.

2. Format of Proposals.

(a) The entire proposal should not exceed 75 pages, including any appendices.

(b) Proposals shall be unclassified and shall include

- (i) Cover Page
 - (1) Identity of the Institution or Lead Institution
 - (2) Technical Contact (name, address, phone, fax, electronic mail address)

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(2) Business Contact (name, address, phone, fax, electronic mail address)

(ii) Table of Contents

(iii) Proposal Summary. This should be a concise statement, not exceeding two pages in length, of the material presented in the body of the proposal. All proposals will be evaluated for selection as operator of either AGOR 27 or AGOR 28.

(iv) Consortium Agreement. A proposal from a formal consortium of U.S. institutions (rather than a single institution) must include a final, signed consortium agreement among the parties which identifies the lead institution, outlining their understanding of the requirements stated in this solicitation and expressing their intent to jointly support the research vessel's operations and maintenance throughout the initial five-year charter period.

(v) Vessel Nomination. Proposals must include the name(s) of the UNOLS Global or Intermediate Class vessel(s) nominated for turn-in. In the event the vessel(s) are either not Navy-owned or not currently assigned to the offeror, a letter of acknowledgement from the vessel owner shall be included as evidence of the offeror's authority to nominate the vessel(s).

(vi) Full Proposal.

3. **Content of Proposals.** The Offeror must demonstrate that it meets the eligibility requirements of Section III. Summary statements with cross-references to detailed explanations in the proposal are acceptable. Detailed information should, at a minimum, address the information in the narrative associated with each factor below. The information provided in the proposal will form the basis of the evaluation.

(a) FACTOR 1: OCEAN SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAMS

(i) Extent and quality of ocean science research experience of the offeror.

Describe the institution's or consortium's ocean science experimental research program over the past five years, including identification of key staff scientists or research groups, sources and amounts of funding, past use of ships and publications and other evidence of research accomplishments. The same data may also be provided for other (non-offeror) users of the institution's oceanographic assets, such as programs of other academic, government or private users which may further strengthen the proposal.

(ii) Future research directions as coupled to ONR and other Federal Agency research interests. Provide an outline of the scientific activities visualized for the first three years use of the ship. Include a thorough description of the anticipated role of individuals or groups with the institution or consortium, and identification of probable sources of research support. The same data may also be provided for other anticipated users. A discussion of the longer term (5-10 year) outlook for research initiatives of interest to ONR and other Federal agencies in ocean science research should also be included.

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(iii) Match of the offeror's current and future research program requirements to the ship's expected capabilities. Provide a clear statement of the institution's or consortium's reasons for desiring to be designated as the operator of the new vessel. Briefly discuss how the proposed AGOR 27 and 28 Ocean Class vessels would benefit current ocean sciences research capabilities within your institution or consortium. In addition, include a discussion of the institution's/consortium's philosophy concerning scheduling and operating of the ship as a unit of the UNOLS academic fleet.

(b) FACTOR 2: VESSEL OPERATIONS. Degree of existing or planned capability to manage, operate and maintain the vessel efficiently and effectively as a unit of the national academic fleet. Describe the institution's or consortium's management plan to operate and properly maintain the vessel for world-wide scientific research at sea, addressing each of the following:

(i) Physical Facilities. The location, size, design and extent of docking and related shore support facilities available to support the vessel after its delivery, and the interface with other vessels currently operated by the institution. Provide information related to age and condition of the pier, depth of channel and area alongside, and the results of any recent facility inspections.

(ii) Personnel. The capabilities of the proposed management and operations staff, and a notional plan for assigning or hiring the vessel's crew and marine technician complement. If any of these do not already exist within the institution, a plan for recruitment must be submitted.

(iii) Shipboard Personnel Capabilities and Training. The capabilities and training of the crew and marine technicians to be assigned to the vessel that will enable and foster successful, world-wide, scientific research at sea. Describe the qualifications and training of the crew that will be assigned upon delivery of the ship. Describe institution or consortium plans for maintaining a highly qualified and trained crew for world-wide scientific research at sea.

(iv) Initial Operating Plan. The initial three-year operation plan from a logistical and maintenance perspective. Discuss maintenance approach, including preventive maintenance, repairs and overhauls/required drydocking. Regarding maintenance and repairs address the following:

(A) Planned Maintenance. Describe experience in using predictive maintenance, preventive maintenance and condition monitoring techniques.

(B) Management of Repairs. Describe the approach used to mitigate the risks associated with planning crew capable repairs, voyage repairs, and shipyard availabilities. Describe the procedures used to develop mid-term availability work packages and large dollar overhauls.

(C) Lifecycle Management Program. Describe the lifecycle management program used to manage adequate and timely maintenance and repair and adequate engineering oversight and spares to ensure vessel readiness.

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(D) **Property Management.** Describe how the vessel operator will use or modify its property control system to manage installed machinery, equipment or materials that become property of the Government.

(v) **Cost Estimates.** Provide an estimate, with rationale/back-up, of operating and maintenance costs for the first three years. Provide additional cost details for the initial period while the vessel is brought into service after delivery.

(c) **FACTOR 3: PRE-DELIVERY SUPPORT AND OUTFITTING.** Pre-delivery management, support and outfitting approach. Describe the institution or consortium's management plan for pre-delivery support and outfitting, addressing each of the following:

(i) **Existing Infrastructure.** The supporting staff and structure that will be involved in the design and construction phase of the vessel including identification of project director and other key personnel; administrative support capabilities such as contracting and procurement experience, finance and accounting office; and legal assistance.

(ii) **Detailed Work Plan.** A notional description of the plan for participating in the Navy's design and construction process. This should include design development, solicitation and award of the construction contract, performance tests and ship trials, and oversight and monitoring of the construction phase.

(iii) **Outfitting.** Any equipment proposed to be installed by the operator. Specify the source, condition and characteristics of the equipment (including space, weight and power requirements), source of funding and proposed locations for major equipment. Describe the institution's or consortium's system for inventory and maintenance of this equipment.

(iv) **Reporting.** A notional plan for reporting on management activities throughout the pre- and post-delivery periods.

(v) **Cost Estimates.** A notional budget for participation in and management of the design, construction and pre-delivery activities, sea trials, and the outfitting process. Provide a budget and explain the costs of management of the program as they relate to the following:

(A) Participation in design and engineering review at NAVSEA and onsite at the designer/builder's location during the design phase;

(B) One full-time representative at the shipyard during the construction phase;

(C) Institutional participation at program reviews during the design and construction phases of the program;

(D) Support and attendance at pre-delivery activities, such as builder's and acceptance trials;

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(E) Support and attendance at post-shipyard delivery activities, such as outfitting, final contract trials, deferred work, and post shakedown availability.

Note: The notional budget is understood to be a preliminary cost estimate. The selected operators will be required to submit a formal technical and cost proposal to ONR following selection. Financial support of the activities listed above will depend on the availability of Navy funding.

(d) FACTOR 4: EFFICIENCIES

(i) The offeror's ability to stabilize or reduce federal operating costs for the UNOLS fleet while meeting future world-wide, at sea scientific research requirements. Describe current or proposed practices to stabilize or reduce federal operating costs for the UNOLS fleet. This may address initiatives such as improvements in efficiencies or cost reduction efforts including, but not limited to, cross-decking of equipment, multiple facility/institutional uses for each vessel, multi-use port facilities for UNOLS-wide access or forms of efficient fleet maintenance, scheduling and crew utilization. Creative approaches within the context of the overall UNOLS fleet are encouraged.

(ii) An institutional commitment (or if a consortium, a multi-institutional commitment) to cost share operations and to provide scientific equipment or other property which enhances the ship's capabilities. Describe in detail institutional funds or in-kind contributions proposed to defray part of the annual cost of ship operations, or any other cost-share arrangement that will benefit the overall operations of the UNOLS fleet.

(e) **FACTOR 5: PAST PERFORMANCE.** The offeror's past performance in operations and maintenance of oceanographic research vessels. Briefly describe the results of relevant research cruises, and ship material evaluations conducted by external agencies over the past five years. Such descriptions may include summaries of UNOLS Post-Cruise Assessments, the Navy INSURV, or NSF, U.S. Coast Guard or American Bureau of Shipping inspections or evaluations. Offerors without a record of relevant past performance, or for whom information on past performance is not available, will receive a neutral past performance evaluation.

4. **Submission of Late Proposals** – Any proposal, modification, or revision that is received at the designated Government office after the exact time specified for receipt of proposals is “late” and will not be considered unless it is received before selection is made, the selection official determines that accepting the late proposal would not unduly delay the selection, and

- If it was transmitted through an electronic commerce method authorized by the announcement and it was received at the initial point of entry to the Government infrastructure not later than 5:00 P.M. one working day prior to the date specified for receipt of proposals; or
- There is acceptable evidence to establish that it was received at the Government installation designated for receipt of proposals and was under the Government's control prior to the time set for receipt of proposals; or
- It was the only proposal received.

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However, a late modification of an otherwise timely and successful proposal that makes its terms more favorable to the Government will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

Acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the Government installation includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the proposal wrapper, other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of Government personnel.

If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal Government processes so that proposals cannot be received at the Government office designated for receipt of proposals by the exact time specified in the announcement, and urgent Government requirements preclude amendment of the announcement closing date, the time specified for receipt of proposals will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the announcement on the first work day on which normal Government processes resume.

The selection official or supporting staff must promptly notify any offeror if its proposal, modifications, or revision was received late and must inform the offeror whether its proposal will be considered.

V. EVALUATION INFORMATION:

Evaluation for the selection of the institutions to operate AGOR 27 and 28 will be based on competitive, merit-based procedures. The objective of this competitive award is to select the most appropriate institutions to operate AGOR 27 and the follow-on AGOR 28 on behalf of the Navy and the U.S. ocean science community. All proposals will be evaluated for selection as operator of either AGOR 27 or AGOR 28. ONR intends to select the offeror with the most highly rated proposal as the operator for AGOR 27, and the offeror of the next most highly rated proposal as the operator for AGOR 28. Proposals will be evaluated by ONR with the assistance of the NSF and the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy. ONR reserves the right to utilize UNOLS representatives or other technical experts not related to any offeror to provide technical assistance to the Government's evaluators.

Evaluation of the proposals meeting the minimum eligibility requirements in Section III above will be based on the following factors. Factors 1 and 2 are of equal importance and are more important than Factors 3 through 5, which are of equal importance to each other.

FACTOR 1: OCEAN SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAMS. The Government will evaluate the extent and quality of ocean science research experience of the offeror; the Offeror's future research directions as coupled to ONR and other Federal Agency research interests; and the match of the offeror's current and future research program requirements to the ship's expected capabilities

FACTOR 2: VESSEL OPERATIONS. The Government will evaluate the degree of existing or planned capability to operate and maintain the ship efficiently and effectively as a unit of the

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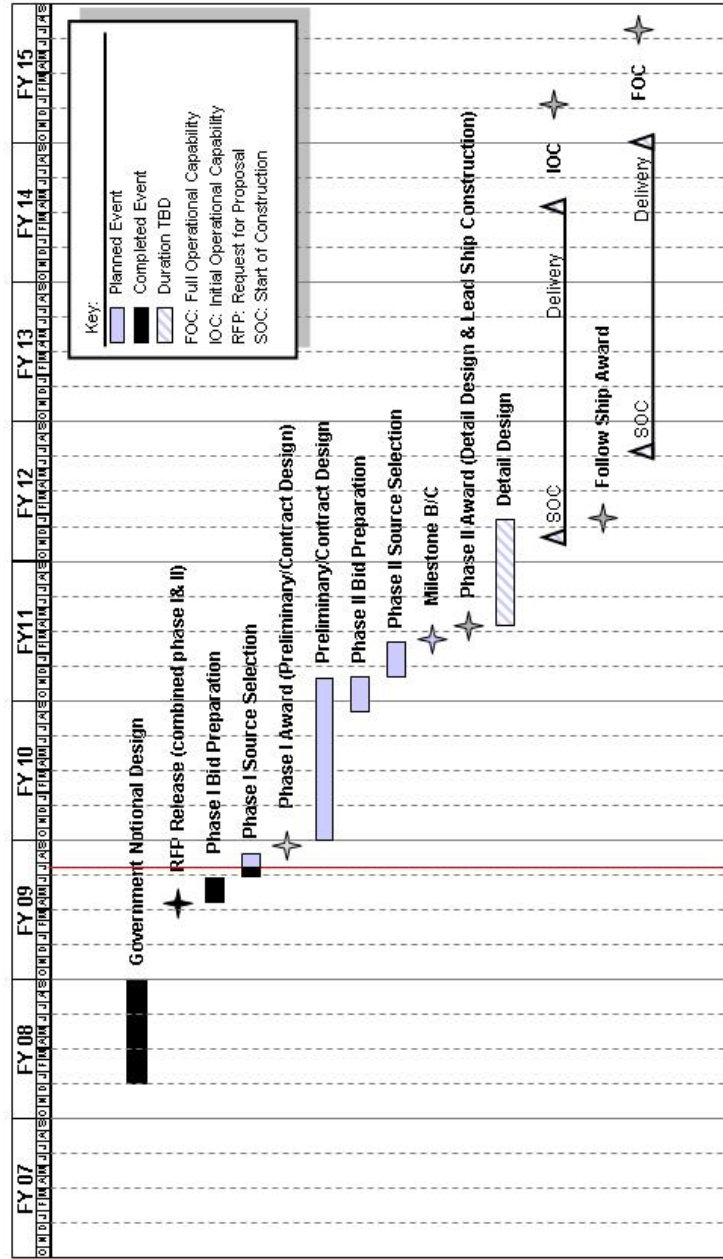
national academic fleet, including the offeror's physical facilities; personnel; and initial operating plan. Cost estimates will be evaluated to assess the offeror's understanding of the requirement.

FACTOR 3: PRE-DELIVERY SUPPORT AND OUTFITTING. The Government will evaluate the offeror's approach provided in their management support and outfitting plan, which shall address existing infrastructure; the offeror's work plan for participating in the Navy's design and construction process; outfitting plan; and plan for reporting management activities. Cost estimates will be evaluated to assess the offeror's understanding of the requirement.

FACTOR 4: EFFICIENCIES. The Government will evaluate the offeror's ability to stabilize or reduce federal operations cost anticipated for the UNOLS fleet, and the offeror's commitment to cost share operations and to provide scientific equipment or other property which enhances the ship's capabilities.

FACTOR 5: PAST PERFORMANCE. The Government will evaluate the offeror's past performance in operations and maintenance of oceanographic research vessels.

Ocean Class AGOR Schedule



BUSINESS SENSITIVE