A group of people standing in front of a city

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**Volume I – Mandatory Requirements**

A picture containing text, clock, dark, gauge

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**Stealth Solutions, Inc.**

**Response**

**to**

**Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**

**IT Accessibility and Section 508 Compliance Service**

**RFQ No: 2031ZB-24-Q-00006 A00002**

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# **508 Consulting Experience**

Team Stealth, comprised of Stealth Solutions and our esteemed partner Deque Systems, offers unparalleled expertise in digital accessibility. Founded in 1999, Deque has been at the forefront of accessibility innovation, developing the first automated desktop accessibility testing tool tailored to Section 508 standards soon after they were established. This tool was a pioneer in automated HTML site scanning based on these standards, underscoring Deque's foundational commitment to ensuring equal access for all.

Deque's deep domain expertise in digital accessibility is rooted in their comprehensive understanding of the evolution of accessibility standards and practices. Their approach goes beyond testing, focusing on program development essential for implementing accessibility in large, complex organizations. Together with Stealth Solutions' extensive experience in conducting comprehensive accessibility overhauls and maintaining rigorous compliance audits, Team Stealth is exceptionally well-suited to support the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in enhancing and sustaining digital accessibility across their platforms.

## **Demonstrated Experience in IT Accessibility Compliance Programs**

Team Stealth has developed methodologies and subject matter expertise, to provide strategic guidance for IT Accessibility Compliance Programs in the federal government agencies, showcasing our capability to manage complex and large-scale projects effectively. Our expertise is demonstrated through successful engagements with:

### U.S. Mint

* **Duration:** 15 years
* **Scope:** Supported achieving and exceeding Section 508 compliance across web properties, mobile applications, and PDFs.
* **Key Achievements:**
  + **Integration and Automation:** Implemented axe-Monitor within the Mint’s development pipeline, automating accessibility checks and enabling real-time issue detection and remediation for extensive digital assets.
  + **PDF Remediation:** Utilized advanced tools for efficient PDF remediation, addressing critical accessibility issues such as missing tags and improper reading order across a wide range of documents.

### DLA Project

* **Duration:** Ongoing
* **Scope:** Provided comprehensive accessibility solutions for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), including web content and PDF remediation.
* **Key Achievements:**
  + **Real-Time Monitoring:** Deployed axe-Monitor to ensure continuous Section 508 compliance, facilitating real-time scanning and automated issue detection across high-traffic web properties.
  + **Scalable Solutions:** Applied scalable accessibility solutions and agile project management practices, enabling efficient handling of accessibility issues and rapid adaptation to changing standards.

### USDA Project

* **Duration:** Ongoing
* **Scope:** Assisted the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in achieving Section 508 compliance across digital assets, including web applications and PDFs.
* **Key Achievements:**
  + **Automated Testing and Compliance:** Utilized axe-Monitor and axe-DevTools Pro for automated accessibility testing, integrating these tools into the USDA’s development pipeline. This integration enabled continuous compliance through automated, in-line testing and prompt issue remediation.
  + **Shifting Left:** Implemented a "shift-left" strategy by incorporating accessibility testing early in the development process. This proactive approach allowed the USDA to identify and address accessibility issues from the initial lines of code, reducing remediation time and costs while enhancing overall compliance.

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Web Development Services

* **Duration:** Ongoing since September 2022
* **Scope:** Stealth Solutions manages the development, maintenance, and administration of NTIA’s key digital platforms, including Broadband USA and Federal Government Spectrum. We prioritize responsiveness, usability, and stringent compliance with Section 508 accessibility standards.
* **Key Achievements:**
  + Stealth Solutions has enhanced NTIA’s digital accessibility through comprehensive overhauls and regular audits, ensuring Section 508 compliance. We integrate accessibility throughout the project lifecycle and provide ongoing training to maintain standards. All NTIA sites align with the United States Web Design Standards for consistent, accessible user experiences.

Team Stealth brings over five years of expertise in managing complex IT Accessibility Compliance Programs for federal agencies, having successfully delivered multiple projects. Our expertise is demonstrated through the integration of tools like axe-Monitor and axe-DevTools Pro, and our proactive strategy of embedding accessibility early in the development cycle. With a track record of success in projects with the U.S. Mint, DLA, USDA, and NTIA, we are ideally equipped to handle similar projects, including the IRS-BEP initiative.

# **Process Automation Experience**

Team Stealth, in collaboration with Deque, brings over three years of advanced experience in Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) and Robotic Process Automation (RPA), fully meeting the mandatory requirements for the project. Deque, a leader in digital accessibility, revolutionized the field in **March 2021** by launching the first AI-powered digital accessibility testing tool. This tool blends machine learning with human-centered design principles to enhance accuracy in testing outcomes.

Our AI approach starts with our data pipeline. We now have over 1.5 billion downloads of our open-source ruleset, and over 300,000 weekly extension users. This widespread adoption has given us the ability to capture a vast amount of testing data to feed our AI training pipeline.

A key innovation from our AI efforts is our robust computer vision models, which have significantly broadened issue detection capabilities in areas such as Object Detection, OCR, and Visual Rendering across different UI states. Deque’s Intelligent Guided Testing (IGT) function, fueled by our closed data ecosystem rather than the open internet, extends coverage from 57% to an industry-leading 80%. This advanced capability is not only effective in large commercial enterprises but also in government organizations like the USDA. The substantial efficiency improvements and cost savings are evident in real-world applications, where, for example, we achieved $3.4 million in savings for 50 agile development teams over one year by proactively addressing accessibility issues early in the development process. This approach ensures our solutions are optimized for large-scale implementations, delivering significant value and compliance enhancements.

Based on Deque’s large data sets, especially within our training portfolio (specifically Deque University, a self-paced online learning platform), Large Language Model (LLM) was the next progression in terms of Deque’s AI development. LLM is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) program that uses deep learning to analyze large amounts of data and perform natural language processing (NLP) tasks. LLMs are trained on massive datasets, such as millions of gigabytes of text from the internet, to recognize, summarize, translate, predict, and generate content.

Furthermore, the integration of Large Language Models (LLM) into Deque University’s training platform has led to the development of the Axe Assistant. This feature uses deep learning to provide users with intelligent, context-aware responses to accessibility queries, significantly reducing dependency on accessibility experts and accelerating the feedback process.

Through these advancements, Team Stealth not only meets but exceeds the requisite experience, demonstrating a profound capability to drive innovation in AI/ML and RPA within accessibility testing. We have an end goal of helping to further our automation and even provide direct code-level remediation snippets within our testing products. This ensures that our approach is not only technically advanced but also aligned with the highest standards of accuracy and user-centered design, making it ideal for large-scale government projects.

# **Inclusive Technology Integration Experience**

Team Stealth provides demonstrated experience in evaluating, assessing, designing, and implementing 508 accessibility and compliance projects. Our extensive experience in evaluating, assessing, designing, and implementing accessible technology solutions highlights our ability to create and deploy systems that work seamlessly for all users, regardless of their abilities. Here are three key case studies that exemplify our success in developing technology solutions for diverse user bases:

**Case Study I: USCIS**

* **Scope**: Enhancing Section 508 compliance for USCIS's digital platforms.
* **Experience**:
  + Conducted a comprehensive audit to identify accessibility barriers and assess Section 508 compliance.
  + Utilized axe™ DevTools for in-line testing and axe Monitor for ongoing compliance tracking.
* **Outcome**: Optimized accessibility across USCIS's digital platforms, improving usability for all users, including those with disabilities.

**Case Study II: SBA (Small Business Administration)**

* **Scope**: Improving accessibility for the SBA’s digital services.
* **Experience**:
  + Performed a detailed evaluation to identify accessibility barriers and compliance needs.
  + Employed axe-Monitor for continuous compliance tracking and axe-DevTools Pro for in-line accessibility testing.
* **Outcome**: Enhanced accessibility across SBA’s digital services, creating a more inclusive and user-friendly experience for all small business owners and stakeholders.

**Case Study III: BCCR (Banco Central de Costa Rica)**

* **Scope**: Improving accessibility across BCCR’s digital platforms.
* **Experience**:
  + Conducted a comprehensive automated accessibility audit to identify barriers and assess compliance with international standards.
  + Integrated axe-Monitor and axe-DevTools Pro into BCCR’s development workflow, including support for assistive technology to ensure a fully inclusive experience.
* **Outcome**: Enhanced accessibility **over three years**, significantly improving the user experience for all individuals, including those using assistive technology.

**Case Study IV: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Inclusive Technology Integration:**

* **Scope:** The focus is on ensuring that NTIA digital platforms are not only responsive and user-friendly but also meticulously compliant with Section 508 accessibility standards.
* **Experience**:
  + **Comprehensive Accessibility Integration**: Systematically enhanced NTIA’s digital accessibility by conducting extensive overhauls and regular audits to ensure continuous Section 508 compliance.
  + **Inclusive Design and Development**: Throughout the project lifecycle, from design through deployment and updates, we integrate accessibility to ensure that all digital content is accessible to every user, regardless of their abilities. This approach aligns with our commitment to creating universally accessible and usable environments.
  + **Consistent and Inclusive User Experience**: All NTIA web properties are developed in accordance with the United States Web Design Standards, which emphasize accessibility and provide a consistent experience across federal platforms.
  + **Accessibility Training and Support**: We provide ongoing training for NTIA’s development teams, focusing on best practices in accessible design and maintenance to ensure they can independently uphold these standards.
* **Outcome**: As a result of our integrated approach, NTIA has reported an improvement in accessibility across all platforms, reducing barriers for users with disabilities and enhancing overall user satisfaction.

Team Stealth, in partnership with Deque, stands at the forefront of accessible technology solutions. Deque's pioneering innovations, such as axe™ DevTools and axe Monitor, are instrumental in accessibility testing and have been integrated into major platforms, including Google’s Lighthouse. These tools have catalyzed substantial enhancements in accessibility across diverse projects. Our collaborations with high-profile agencies like USCIS, the SBA, and particularly BCCR over three years, underscore our expertise in deploying inclusive technologies. The BCCR project exemplified our commitment to integrating assistive technology, ensuring that our solutions accommodate all users globally and uphold the highest standards of inclusivity. This experience vividly demonstrates Team Stealth’s capacity to fulfill the "Inclusive Technology Integration Experience" requirement, showcasing our proven track record in developing and implementing technology solutions that are universally accessible.

# **Summary**

Team Stealth, alongside Deque Systems, not only meets but significantly exceeds the BEP project's mandatory requirements. With over five years of experience in IT Accessibility Compliance Programs for federal agencies, we have delivered impactful projects for agencies like the U.S. Mint, DLA, USDA, and NTIA. These initiatives demonstrate our capacity to handle programs of substantial size and complexity, integrating assistive technologies to ensure all digital content upholds strict accessibility standards.

Our three-year track record with AI/ML and RPA is exemplified by the deployment of pioneering tools such as axe-Monitor and axe-DevTools Pro. These technologies have enhanced administrative programs and accessibility compliance at an enterprise level, leading to significant efficiency gains and cost reductions.

Moreover, our robust experience in inclusive technology integration, delivering solutions that effectively serve all users, including those with disabilities, underscores our commitment to functional, inclusive design. This expertise positions Team Stealth as a leading contender for the IRS-BEP initiative, equipped to surpass expectations in delivering comprehensive, accessible technology solutions.