A group of people standing in front of a city

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**Request For Information**

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**Submitted By:**

Stealth Solutions, Inc.

**SBA Certified 8(a) Program Participant**

**SAM UEI: RCMZNAHAZ7D9**

**STARS III Contract: 47QTCB21D0018**

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**Stealth Solutions, Inc.**

**Response**

**to**

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**Program & Project Management Support (PPMS)**

***Request for Information***

**October 18, 2024**

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# Stealth Introduction

Stealth Solution Inc. (Stealth), founded in 2014 and headquartered in Sterling, Virginia, is an 8(a) small business that provides innovative IT solutions to federal government agencies. Our core expertise includes Agile development, Program and Project Management, Quality Assurance, Salesforce Development, DevOps Engineering, User Experience (UX) Strategy, and IT Modernization. Stealth excels in managing full-scale system implementations, streamlining operations, and driving process efficiencies.

As a prime contractor for USAID and the Department of Commerce (DOC), we hold NAICS codes 541511 and 541512 (Custom Computer Programming Services & Computer Systems Design Services). We are also proud awardees of GSA MAS and 8(a) STARS III contract vehicles, which reinforces our capability to deliver high-quality solutions across federal programs.

Stealth’s deep expertise in Agile program management and modern IT solutions aligns with CMS's goals for advancing healthcare services through strategic modernization, cloud migration, AI research, and analytics. Our team is well-equipped to support CMS's PPMS objectives and deliver the required outcomes efficiently. We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to CMS’s efforts and ensure the success of this initiative.

# General Vendor Information

* **Organization Name:** Stealth Solution Inc.
* **Mailing Address:** [raj.shekhar@stealth-us.com](mailto:raj.shekhar@stealth-us.com)
* **Point of Contact:**
  + Name: Raj Shekhar
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  + Designation: Vice President
* **Business Type:** 8(a) SBA-certified small, disadvantaged business, GSA MAS awardee, 8(a) STARS III contract vehicle holder.
* **Current/Previous Federal Contracts:** Stealth Solution Inc. is the prime contractor for USAID and the Department of Commerce, and we hold contracts under NAICS codes 541511 (Custom Computer Programming Services) and 541512 (Computer Systems Design Services).

# Answers to Questions

| Q# | RFI Questions | Vendor Response |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | What additional information not already included in the DRAFT Performance Work Statement (PWS) would you like to see included to help you be more successful in a bid? | It would be helpful to include more detail on the current state of systems and processes, particularly for ongoing initiatives that the contractor will inherit. Clarifying CMS’s vision for integrating AI research with existing systems would help refine our approach. Additionally, information on key performance indicators (KPIs) and expectations for stakeholder engagement throughout the project would allow us to structure a more targeted and responsive solution to the Government’s needs. |
| 2 | Is there something in the PWS that might inhibit your ability to propose a solution that best fits the Government’s needs? | The current requested delivery schedule may pose challenges. The frequency of non-critical deliverables, such as weekly reports and bi-weekly meetings, may shift focus away from core AI research and development activities. A more flexible schedule that adjusts based on project phases could reduce administrative overhead and enhance the team's ability to prioritize high-impact work. We also seek confirmation on whether CMS would be open to discussions regarding deliverable schedules to align better with research and innovation timelines. |
| 3 | Are there assumptions that you made when reviewing the PWS that you can share with us? | We assume CMS would provide access to key stakeholders and necessary IT infrastructure to enable effective collaboration on AI and IT modernization tasks. Additionally, we expect ongoing feedback from CMS, especially for deliverables related to AI governance and open-source contributions, to ensure that project outcomes align with CMS’s objectives. It is also assumed that CMS’s internal staff will support decision-making and approvals on time to prevent delays. |
| 4 | Are there team composition constraints that you would like to see included in a potential formal requirement (e.g., number of key personnel or key personnel roles, estimated team size, etc.)? Are there constraints that you have found limiting in past requests for proposals? | While we understand the need for key personnel, we recommend providing flexibility in team composition and roles to accommodate changes in project scope. Specifying the minimum number of full-time personnel, such as a certified project manager and AI SME, would help ensure essential expertise is maintained.  In the past, overly rigid key personnel requirements have limited ability to adjust resources effectively. Flexibility would enable us to better manage team size and composition as the project evolves. |
| 5 | What would you recommend as the right skill mix and team size to achieve the goals of this effort? | The team skill mix across all tasks would include a couple levels of PMP based PMs, Business Analysts, Technical SMEs for Salesforce, AI and HITECH, along with business process and testing. |
| 6 | What are the challenges that you foresee in appropriately staffing a team to support the goals and functional requirements for the effort and its periods of performance? | One challenge is sourcing qualified personnel with both federal project management and advanced AI expertise, especially given the rapid pace of AI developments. Ensuring the right balance between technical skills and compliance with federal regulations will be crucial. Additionally, the potential need to quickly scale resources based on evolving project priorities may require contingency planning. A phased staffing approach with the ability to ramp up based on CMS feedback could address this challenge. |
| 7 | What are your assumptions about CMS staff, regarding their roles, responsibilities, and how they would be supporting PPMS? | We assume CMS staff will provide oversight, review, and approval of deliverables while the contractor manages day-to-day execution. We also expect CMS to assign dedicated technical leads and subject matter experts for collaboration, particularly in AI and IT modernization efforts. Regular touchpoints with CMS staff would ensure alignment, mitigate risks, and provide the contractor with timely feedback on project deliverables and any necessary course corrections. |
| 8 | Based on the information provided in the PWS, do you have any feedback on the contract type (e.g., Firm Fixed Price vs. Time & Materials) that makes sense for this effort? | A Time & Materials (T&M) contract offers the flexibility required for a project centered on AI research and IT modernization, where tasks may evolve. T&M allows adjustments in resources based on project needs and discoveries. A Firm Fixed Price (FFP) contract may work for well-defined deliverables but poses risks when innovation and research introduce unforeseen complexities. T&M also promotes more collaborative planning and real-time adjustments, which is crucial for a project of this scope. |
| 9 | Is there specific information that will assist you in submitting your bid? | Providing clarity on the specific evaluation criteria and weightings used during the proposal review process would help us tailor our submission effectively. Additionally, guidance on the preferred format for past performance references and any specific examples CMS would like to see would further refine our bid. If there are any priorities CMS has identified for the PPMS effort, sharing those would allow us to focus our response accordingly. |
| 10 | What do you see as the greatest challenges in this effort? | The greatest challenge will likely be ensuring that AI research and recommendations are both innovative and compliant with government regulations, particularly around ethical AI governance. Additionally, integrating new technologies while maintaining system compatibility and ensuring stakeholder buy-in may pose obstacles. Ensuring seamless communication between all involved parties, including CMS staff and external stakeholders, will be critical for navigating these challenges successfully. |
| 11 | Does the PWS give you the opportunity to fully describe your research and design capabilities and how they will meet the Government’s needs? | Yes, the PWS allows us to showcase our AI research and IT modernization capabilities effectively. However, more detailed examples of desired outcomes or case studies would further enable us to demonstrate our ability to deliver solutions tailored to CMS’s specific needs. Providing additional guidance on preferred formats for documenting research outcomes and deliverables would help ensure alignment from the outset. |
| 12 | Is the PWS informing the performance measures that you would plan to draft in a Quality Assurance and Surveillance Plan (QASP)? | The PWS lays a good foundation for developing performance measures in a QASP. However, more detailed metrics related to AI research, such as milestones for open-source contributions, ethical AI compliance, and stakeholder engagement, would provide clearer performance expectations. Additional guidance on CMS's preferred performance review frequency and any existing templates for QASP development would be helpful. |
| 13 | What challenges have you faced in completing prior Product Demonstrations, and what are ways for Government expectations to be made clearer? | In past demonstrations, unclear evaluation criteria have been a challenge. Providing clearer expectations upfront, particularly on technical functionality and solution alignment with agency goals, would improve preparation and reduce the risk of misalignment during demonstrations. A structured format for technical challenges and greater transparency in the grading rubric would help set realistic expectations for all parties. |
| 14 | What are factors that you think CMS should consider when preparing a potential formal requirement? | CMS should consider the importance of flexibility in deliverables and team composition, especially in the context of rapidly evolving AI technologies. Allowing for adjustable timelines based on research progress and regular communication with key stakeholders will ensure that both parties remain aligned. Additionally, clearly defining evaluation criteria for key deliverables and providing guidelines for compliance with ethical AI practices would help clarify expectations. |
| 15 | How likely are you to submit a response when this RFQ is released? Would you be submitting it as a prime? | We are highly likely to submit a response as a prime contractor if this stays as a small business set-aside. Our experience with AI research, IT modernization, and supporting federal agencies like CMS positions us well for this opportunity. We look forward to contributing our expertise as both an 8(a) and GSA MAS awardee and are confident that we can deliver innovative, compliant, and impactful solutions to CMS’s PPMS efforts. |

# Conclusion

Stealth Solution Inc. is well-equipped to support CMS in achieving its Program & Project Management Support (PPMS) objectives. With expertise in Agile program management, system integration, cloud migration, and AI research, we are aligned with the strategic goals outlined in the draft PWS.

Our successful past performance, including projects for USAID and the Department of Commerce, demonstrates our ability to manage complex initiatives, delivering on time and within budget. Stealth is committed to ensuring compliance with CMS standards, using FedRAMP-compliant solutions and secure CI/CD pipelines. We are confident in our ability to deliver a successful outcome for CMS and support its long-term goals.