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Issued in Washington, DC, on June 19, 2003.

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*Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.*

[FR Doc. 03-16367 Filed 6-27-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### **Broad Agency Announcement 2003-1, Funds Availability for Research Projects and Technology Advancements Under the Next Generation High-Speed Rail Program**

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of funds availability: Broad agency announcement (BAA) for research projects and technology advancements under the Next Generation High-Speed Rail Program.

#### **Introduction**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is soliciting proposal concept papers for various research projects, technology advancements and/or demonstrations, which can enhance the deployment of high-speed rail service in the United States. Technologies most likely to help facilitate the deployment of high-speed rail service are those which will (a) enhance the revenue-generating capability of high-speed operations by attracting greater ridership by reducing trip times, upgrading customer service quality, increasing reliability, or improving on time performance; (b) bring about capital cost reductions and economy in producing equipment and facilities; (c) reduce operating costs of high-speed rail service by providing more efficient operations; (d) improve the reliability of equipment and infrastructure components by reducing failures and/or

reducing false failure detections; (e) improve safety by reducing human and technology failures; and/or (f) enhance the social benefits and/or environmental aspects of high-speed rail.

#### **Eligible Participants**

This is an unrestricted solicitation. Any responsible source may submit a proposal concept paper for consideration, including, but not limited to, states or local governments, or organizations of state or local governments, universities or institutions of higher education, hospitals, non-profit organizations, private individuals, corporations, businesses or commercial organizations, except that any business owned in whole or in part by the Federal Government is not eligible. Although businesses owned in whole or in part by the Federal Government are not eligible for funding under the Program, they may contract with eligible participants. Cooperative arrangements (e.g., joint ventures, limited partnerships, teaming arrangements, or collaboration and consortium arrangements) are permitted and encouraged. Small, Small Disadvantaged (SD), and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Concerns, and Veteran-Owned (VO) and Woman-Owned (WO), and Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Small Business Concerns, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Minority Institutions (MIs) are encouraged to submit proposal concept papers on their own and/or in collaboration with others. However, no portion of this BAA will be set aside or reserved exclusively for Small, SD, or Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Concerns, or for VO, WO, or HUBZone Small Business Concerns, or for HBCU and MIs.

#### **Exchanges and Points of Contact**

Exchanges of information between interested parties and the Government, prior to submission of proposal concept papers, are strongly encouraged. Such informal exchanges may provide potential offerors with preliminary information on the Government's level of interest in prospective works or projects and possibly forestall costly effort on the part of interested parties whose proposed work may not be of interest to the FRA under this BAA. Any exchanges of information must be consistent with procurement integrity requirements of section 27 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 423, as amended) (see Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 3.104). For pre-submission technical inquiries, interested parties may contact the BAA

primary technical point of contact, Mr. Robert McCown (Tel: 202/493-6350, Fax: 202/493-6333), or one of the other, secondary technical points of contact identified in Appendix A of the BAA 2003-1 Proposal Preparation Package, located at the following address: <http://www.eps.gov/EPSPData/DOT/Synopses/1042/BAA-2003-1/> (\* See Note). Offerors are advised that an indication of interest, in the affirmative, is not meant to imply nor in any way imparts an obligation on the part of the Government that an award will be forthcoming for the offered work or project. All non-technical inquiries should be directed to the Grants/ Contracting Officers, Mr. Robert Carpenter (Tel: 202/493-6153, Fax: 202/493-6171, Email: [robert.carpenter@fra.dot.gov](mailto:robert.carpenter@fra.dot.gov)) or Ms. Illona Williams (Tel: 202/493-6130, Fax: 202/493-6171, Email: [illona.williams@fra.dot.gov](mailto:illona.williams@fra.dot.gov)). After submission of proposals, all exchanges (both technical and non-technical) will be conducted through the Grants/ Contracting Officers in accordance with FAR 15.306.

#### **BAA Time Line**

BAA 2003-1 will be open from the date of posting of the BAA 2003-1 Proposal Preparation Package on FedBizOpps, formerly known as the Electronic Posting System (EPS), through June 30, 2004. Prospective offerors may submit and the FRA will accept proposal concept papers as of the date the BAA 2003-1 Proposal Preparation Package is posted on FedBizOpps and/or the **Federal Register**. Unless BAA 2003-1 is superseded or canceled, FRA will continue to accept concept submissions and inquiries through June 30, 2004. Although the BAA is open for an extended period, interested parties would be well advised to submit proposals as early as possible. Once posted, the BAA 2003-1 Proposal Preparation Package may be download or printed from the following Internet address: <http://www.eps.gov/EPSPData/DOT/Synopses/1042/BAA-2003-1/> (\* See Note). The FRA does not intend to make the BAA 2003-1 Proposal Preparation Package available in hard copy. Reviews will begin and will be conducted continuously on receipt of concept papers. Offerors will be notified as soon as initial reviews are completed. FRA's target for initial review results is 120 days after submission.

#### **Funding Authority and Related Information**

Funds for this program are authorized in the Consolidated Appropriations