



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



Title: BLM's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Resource Management Operations

Authority: Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, 43 U.S.C Section 1737(b), P.L. 94-579

Opportunity No. L14PS00966

CFDA No. 15.231 Fish, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Resource Management, 15.237 Rangeland Resource Management

ISSUE DATE: 11 August 2014

UPDATED CLOSE DATE: 3 September 2014, 5:00 MST

Questions and Answers as of 21 August 2014:

1. **Q:** Is it possible to request an extension on this posting?
A: Yes, the revised date on the posting is 3 September 2014, 5:00pm MST. We recognize this is a short suspense date in requesting full proposals; unfortunately, this extension date is firm given our timelines at the end of the fiscal year. BLM will factor the short timelines into the evaluation of all proposals.
2. **Q:** Could you please clarify what "CESU partnering activities" means?
A: Please reference <http://www.cesu.psu.edu/> for information and eligibility on CESU partnering activities.
3. **Q:** Is this a one-time grant or something that will continue to be funded annually.
A: This particular posting is requesting proposals for a one-time award with an anticipated one year period of performance; however, it is possible that the term of the agreement could extend beyond one year. Please propose a period of performance commensurate with the proposed approach for this requirement considering the award will be a cooperative agreement with a ceiling of \$100,000.00.
4. **Q:** Are fellow federal agencies eligible to apply for this opportunity?
A: Federal agencies are not eligible to apply for this opportunity.
5. **Q:** It is mentioned on page 7 "Operational testing shall be conducted at a minimum of three BLM selected field sites". Where will these sites be?
A: The Cultural Site can be either Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite in Wyoming or the WW2-era Desert Training Center (DTC) between Needles and Palm Springs, CA. Red Gulch has been extensively documented using ground based photogrammetry and the DTC site will have one season of UAS imagery from a T-Hawk available. The volumetric sites will be near Canon City, CO, of which there are three sites from which proposers can select. The Grass/Shrub sites will be located in Southwestern Wyoming basing out of either Rock Springs or Green River.
6. **Q:** There appear to be two major sides to the research, that are inevitably linked to some degree, 1) testing of commercial platforms with specific technical requirements, and 2) researching camera station scaling as a GPS

independent means of scaling 3D models”. Is the BLM looking solely for proposals that address all of the tasks listed under “End of Fiscal Year 14, Fiscal Year 15”, or are open to consideration of proposals addressing less than all 6 tasks identified.

A: Proposals can address as many or as few of the six tasks as they like with the sole exception being that the BLM is looking for novel approaches to the camera station scaling question. Some form of operational testing needs to occur but if proposers would like to minimize the numbers this is an option.

7. **Q:** Please elaborate on the statement from Section II (C) on page 8 that says “The ceiling for each award is \$100,000.00, of which certain phases (tasks) could potentially be funded into the performance of the agreement, depending on availability and need.”

A: Current available Government funding is \$170,000.00. We anticipate awarding one to two cooperative agreements, where each agreement would be capped at \$100,000.00. Depending on proposal prices, if we award two agreements with a \$100,000.00 value, we could potentially fund some of the projects into the term of the cooperative agreement if additional funding becomes available, as our available funding caps at \$170,000.00, not \$200,000.00 (in the event of two \$100,000.00 awards).

8. **Q:** If large areas of currently FAA-authorized land exist, can this area be utilized for the validation flights?

A: Recipients can do as many test flights as they like to validate their camera station scaling solution within their authorized flight area. However, for the operational tests for the cultural, volumetric, and grass/shrub projects we do need them to go to the BLM areas because we have existing data or will have the data for these locations.

Note: Please be aware that the evaluation team selected to review the proposals submitted in response to this announcement will include a subject expert from the United States Geological Survey partnering team.