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I have two questions regarding the CRC project "review of LSI" from task 2 which states "Interview external organizations or ask them to prepare reports.."

It is well known that organizations in the US, Japan and Germany are conducting research on LSPI. Does CRC have any guidance if we should propose meetings with several organizations in each of the three areas, especially Germany and Japan which have significant travel cost?

**A: If a Bidder feels it is necessary to include international organizations and associated travel in their proposal, they can do so. They should be mindful of the fact that the cost of the proposal may be a factor in the selection.**

I am also not sure about why these organizations would prepare reports for CRC unless they were compensated for their effort. If this is a possible approach, would CRC or the selected contractor be responsible for the compensation? It is also not clear how these can be included in the budget as both the number of organizations and scope of their reports (if any) will be determined after Task 1.

**A: If a Bidder feels it is necessary to compensate organizations, they should describe and price this in their proposal. They should be mindful of the fact that the cost of the proposal may be a factor in the selection.**

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Can you please provide clarity on the following questions:

- When do you expect the contract to be awarded and is there a delivery deadline for the final report?

**A: We will award the contract as soon as a suitable contractor is identified and the contract language has been identified. This could be late this year or near the beginning of 2018. Bidders should propose a timeline for completion of the work in the technical proposal.**

- Guidance as to the expected extend (number of pages or number of cited references) of the final report? Even though a "cost-plus" or "reimbursement" contract is envisaged, is there some upper limit to the effort expected?

**A: Bidders should propose a level of effort and associated price in concordance with their interpretation of the work plan.**

- Some details or an example of how the evaluation criterion of "Timeliness of study completion" will be applied to a literature review where the scope offered by potential bidders may be vastly different.

**A: Bidders should propose a level of effort and associated duration in concordance with their interpretation of the work plan.**