



NEWS RELEASE

United States Air Force

SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS, 1690 AIR FORCE Pentagon, Washington DC 20330-1690
Telephone: (703) 695-0640 Fax: (703) 614-7486

JUNE 19, 2007

Air Force responds to recent protests against the CSAR-X amended RFP

WASHINGTON — Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation of Stratford, CT has followed Lockheed Martin Systems Integration (LMSI) of Owego, NY in filing a protest, yesterday, with the Government Accountability Office, on Amendment 4 to the Air Force's Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Combat Search and Rescue Replacement Aircraft (CSAR-X) program.

LMSI filed on June 8, 2007 with the GAO. This represents the second protest of the CSAR-X acquisition filed by LMSI and Sikorsky. Unlike the first protest which challenged the outcome of the source selection this protest challenges corrective action made by the Air Force.

"Protests are part of the acquisition process allowing industry to challenge acquisition decisions" said Lieutenant General Donald J. Hoffman, Military Deputy, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition. "The Air Force feels we have correctly adjusted the RFP to satisfy GAO guidance and concerns. The CSAR-X is our number two acquisition priority and we will work within the acquisition process to get this incredibly necessary capability out to our warfighter. Due to the importance of rapidly replacing our aging fleet of search and rescue helicopters, we're requesting the GAO utilize the express option and expedited procedures to resolve this protest."

Amendment 4 to the CSAR-X RFP was issued May 29, 2007 specifically to take corrective action that is responsive to the February and March GAO decisions. The Air Force has requested revised proposal information relating to the GAO maintenance manpower issue from all the CSAR-X offerors by June 19, 2007. The protest does not change the due date for revised proposal information.

In November 2006, LMSI and Sikorsky filed protests to the GAO of the award of the CSAR-X contract to The Boeing Company of Ridley Park, PA. The initial CSAR-X award was made based on an integrated "Best Value" assessment, which considered the evaluation factors of mission capability, risk, offeror's past performance, and price/cost.

In February 2007, the GAO found an issue with the calculation of maintenance manpower within the operations and support portion of the price/cost evaluation and sustained the protests. In March 2007, the GAO issued a decision denying all other protest allegations made by LMSI and Sikorsky, including the Air Force's evaluation of LMSI's past performance issues with the VH-71 Presidential Helicopter program and its evaluation of the CSAR-X deployability demonstrations.

Air Force subject matter experts (including experienced Air Force helicopter maintainers from around the world) will evaluate the new maintenance information provided by the offerors. Another integrated Best Value assessment will be made based on the updated maintenance manpower evaluation and the results of the evaluations where the GAO found no problems. A winner is expected to be announced in the fall of 2007.

While the Air Force will not comment on the contents of protests that are currently in the GAO, the service remains committed to an open and fair process as we pursue this very critical acquisition to replace the Air Force's aging HH-60G "Pave Hawk" Combat Search and Rescue helicopters.

For more information, contact Aeronautical Systems Center Public Affairs at 937-255-1726.