

Air Force MEDIA RELEASE
[April 13, 2012]

The Air Force will release a draft amended Request For Proposal for the Light Air Support program to the original offerors on April 17.

Air Force officials will meet with both original offerors, Sierra Nevada Corporation and Hawker Beechcraft Defense Corporation, individually that day to review the RFP changes line-by-line. After this review, the Air Force will provide the draft amendment to the offerors. Both will have time to submit comments on the draft RFP amendment, after which the Air Force expects to release the final amended RFP by April 30th.

While the decision process will be event-driven, the Air Force targets a source selection decision in early calendar year 2013. This would allow first aircraft delivery to Afghanistan in third quarter 2014—a delay of about 15 months.

The Air Force Service Acquisition Executive was not satisfied with the documentation supporting the original LAS source selection which prompted termination of the contract in March. Additionally, General Donald Hoffman, Air Force Materiel Command commander, ordered a Commander-Directed Investigation into the LAS contract process on February 27.

Part 1 of the CDI focused solely on the execution of the source selection processes and procedures in the original LAS contract. Facts from Part 1, completed on April 5, were considered in the decision to amend the current RFP. The changes to the RFP will more clearly define the evaluation criteria and tighten the decision-making process. A new source selection team was appointed to evaluate the new proposals.

Release of Part 1 of the CDI report would compromise the integrity of the on-going source selection process due to the source selection information in the report. Any specific individual accountability actions will be deliberate and consistent with law and regulation, and will be taken over the next several months.

Part 2 of the CDI is underway and is reviewing two source selections from each AFMC Product Center and Air Force Space Command's Space and Missile Center to assess quality and consistency of source selection procedures implemented in other Air Force systems acquisition programs.