



Commodity
Procurement
Staff

1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 3522-S, STOP 0239
Washington, DC 20250-0239

Synopsis:

Document Type: Sources Sought Notice
Solicitation Number: AG-PCHX-RFI-13-0004
Posted Date: September 5, 2013
Original Response Date: October 3, 2013
Current Response Date: October 3, 2013
Original Archive Date:
Current Archive Date:
Classification Code: (89) Subsistence
NAICS Code: 311615 Poultry Processing

This Request for Information (RFI) will serve as market research to obtain information on commercial specifications for Individually Frozen/Individually Quick Frozen (IF/IQF), Ready-to-Cook (RTC) chicken drumstick products, as well as U.S. producer/processor interest in and capability to supply the product for USDA's Commodity Purchases for domestic food assistance programs, in particular the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). All information gathered in response to this RFI/Notice will be used solely for planning purposes. This is not a formal solicitation, but a request for interested parties to provide information. No solicitation published by this office for this product currently exists.

A conference call will be hosted by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on Thursday, September 12, 2013 to discuss the objectives of this Request for Information:

Date: September 12, 2013
Time: 1:30 pm EST
Call In: 1-888-858-2144
Access Code: 2757569#

Description:

This is a Request for Information (RFI) as defined in FAR 15.201(e). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), is interested in commercial products that are comparable to the following description:

Individually Frozen/Individually Quick Frozen (IF/IQF), Ready-to-Cook (RTC) Drumsticks (AMS 70.210) produced from ready-to-cook broiler/fryer chickens (AMS 70.201) weighing 2.50 to 3.75 pounds (1.13 to 1.70 kg) without neck and giblets. The drumsticks shall meet U.S. Grade A for all factors, except U.S. Grade B quality for exposed flesh. The commodity shall be packaged in three plastic-film bags of approximately equal portion, and packed to a net weight of 30 pounds (13.61 kg) per fiberboard shipping container.

The drumsticks shall be individually frozen in a manner such that the individual pieces do not stick together once packaged and packed into shipping containers. Ice glazing methods may be permitted.

Additional References:

“USDA Commodity Specifications for Chicken Parts, dated April 2013,” USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service: www.ams.usda.gov/commoditypurchasing

“Master Solicitation for Commodity Procurements, dated April 2013,” USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS): www.ams.usda.gov/commoditypurchasing

“Vendor Qualifications Requirements, dated September 2012,” USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS): www.ams.usda.gov/commoditypurchasing

Information Requested:

All information provided with regard to the commercial availability and production practices for these products should take into account USDA's 100 percent domestic origin requirement (see Master Solicitation for Commodity Procurements). Interested parties should answer the following questions and provide the requested information:

- 1) Your interest in this procurement;
- 2) Production and product specification(s), including:
 - a. brand name/product code;
 - b. raw material production;
 - c. processing procedures;
 - d. method of freezing: IF, IQF, or other (specify)
 - e. labeling information, including: lot coding, nutrition facts, ingredients label, and allergen statement;
 - f. piece count, packaging and pack size in net and gross weights (lbs.).
 - i. please Include information on commercial prevalence of each pack size proposed;
 - g. shelf life, and recommendations for optimal storage conditions;
 - h. truckload unitization/configuration: cases per pallet, pallets per truckload.
- 3) Historical price per pound;
- 4) Capabilities: volume constraints, distribution limitations, seasonal production capacity, etc., as applicable;
- 5) Commercial warranty;

- 6) Any other relevant information, recommendations, comments, issues and/or concerns that would be beneficial to the Government for our market research;
- 7) Company/organization name and contact information: name, title, phone and e-mail address.

All applicable Federal and State mandatory requirements and regulations relating to the preparation, packaging, labeling, storage, distribution of the product within the commercial marketplace must be met. The delivered product shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

Should USDA move forward and publish an actual solicitation as a result of this market research, suppliers must become qualified vendors before being eligible to bid (see "Additional References," above).

Responses shall be submitted electronically (e-mailed) to: RFIResponses@ams.usda.gov. The subject line shall read: **Response to Sources Sought Notice for Frozen Chicken Drumsticks.**

Responses are requested to be received no later than **October 3, 2013.**

Questions may be directed to one of the contacts provided below.

Contracting Office Address:

1400 Independence Ave, S.W.
Mail Stop 3522
Washington, DC 20250

Primary Point of Contact:

Sara Hernandez, Agricultural Marketing Specialist
USDA, AMS Commodity Procurement Staff
Sara.Hernandez@ams.usda.gov
Phone: (202) 680-4734

Secondary Point of Contact:

Ronald Ulibarri, Operations Branch Chief
USDA, AMS Commodity Procurement Staff
Ronald.Ulibarri2@ams.usda.gov
Phone: (202) 720-8764