Developing an Effective Scope of Work for Operations & Service Contracts

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Outline

- Challenges in Preparing a Scope of Work
- The "Silver Bullet" of Scope Development
- Operationally-Focused Procurement Tools
- Becoming a Client of Choice





Simplar Research Institute

- Become a Client of Choice
 - Attract high performing teams
 - Identify & leverage expertise
- Become a AEC or Vendor of Choice
 - Use performance information to improve hit rate
 - Work like an expert for higher profit

- Benchmarking, exploratory talent development
- Hands-on Project Integration



















20+ Years | 210+ Publications | 100+ Partners

2,500+ Projects | \$11+ Billion Procured

Information Technology

Networking Data centers Hardware COTS software **ERP systems**

Facility Management

> maintenance custodial conveyance landscaping pest control security service **building** systems industrial moving waste management energy management





Business/Municipal/ **University Services**

Dining Services Multi-media rights Fitness equipment Online education **Document management Retirement Funds**

Recycling **Bookstores** Laundry Audio Visual

Help desk services

eProcurement

Property management Communications systems Construction/Design/ Engineering

Infrastructure Municipal Laboratory **Education** Hospital **Financial** Specialty

Renovation Repair Maintenance Roofing **Demolition** Development Supply chain

DBB CMAR DB IDIQ JOC Low Bid **IPD**

Other Current Partners













































Current Utility Efforts

- \$1.5B Mainline / Trunkline (100+ projects, 6-10 years)
- \$400M+ Groundwater Treatment
- \$100M ERP IT
- \$30M Smart Grid Consultants
- \$30M Smart Grid Change Management
- \$900M Smart Grid/Meter Replacement (1.5M Electric/700 Water)
- \$100M Office Building
- \$3.1M Design + \$60M Turbine Replacement
- \$400K Design + \$2.5M Solar Microgrid
- \$15M GIS IT
- \$4.5M Asset Management System for Electrical Assets, Demand-Side Management, and an Analytics System & Database
- \$3M Substation (x2)
- CM Program/VOR Program
- COR Program/Audit (\$1.2M), Accounting, Other various consultants





A Traditional Approach To **Hiring An Expert**

OBJECTIVE: Hire a brain surgeon to perform surgery on a loved one



TRADITIONAL APPROACH:

- First Step = Provide an unclear explanation of the symptoms & objectives
- **Second Step** = Hire the cheapest (or favorite) surgeon
- **Third Step** = "Negotiate" their proposal:
 - Ask that surgeon to find ways to lower their price some more?
 - Request that the surgeon completes the surgery faster?
 - Request that they follow your instructions on performing surgery?
 - Identify what tools they are allowed to use?
 - Direct them on which nurses/doctors they can use?
 - Hire other individuals to tell the surgeon how to do the surgery?
- Fourth Step = Act completely surprised when the surgery is not successful!











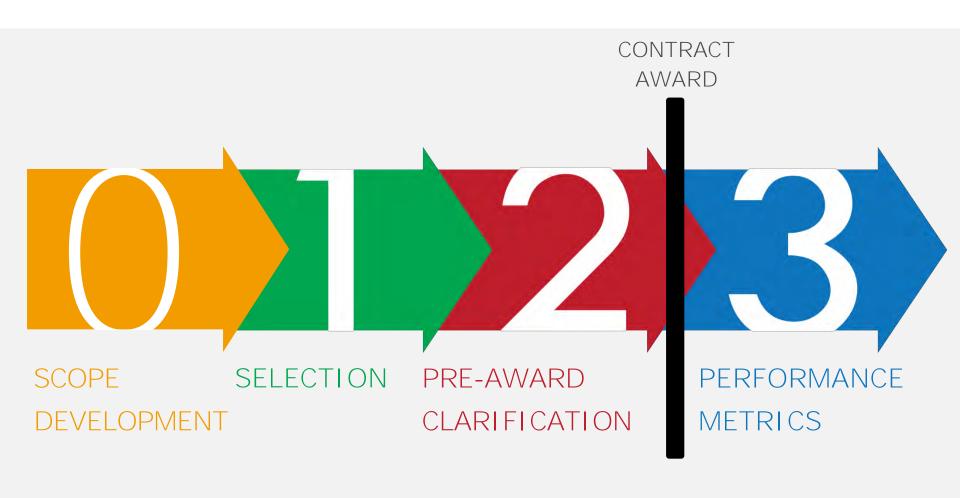
Our Research Mission

- 1. Minimize Cost by becoming more Efficient
 - Attract and Hire Experts (operations focus)
 - Leverage expertise into the contract
 - Measure for positive accountability
- 2. Become a Client of Choice
- 3. Facilitate Organizational Mastery





Expertise-Driven Project Delivery (XPD)







Preparing the Scope

- Can be very challenging
 - o What to put in?
 - O What to leave out?
 - o How much detail?
 - O What details?
 - O Don't know what you don't know...?



- Users have a hard time preparing the scope
 - o Too busy
 - Too detailed
 - Too technical
 - Too prescriptive
 - Don't know where to start















Scope of Work / Spec / Reqs

Perceptions of Owner SOWs

- Unclear
- Information is missing
- Overly prescriptive
- Unrealistic
- Discourages innovation
- The owner is "fishing"
- Misunderstands Needs
- Procurement is not fair

Impact

- Fewer proposals
- Low quality proposals
- Less qualified team/indivs.
- Less competitive pricing
- Less consistent pricing
- Open to interpretation
- Have to believe the vendor
- Brings risk to the Owners





Scope Examples









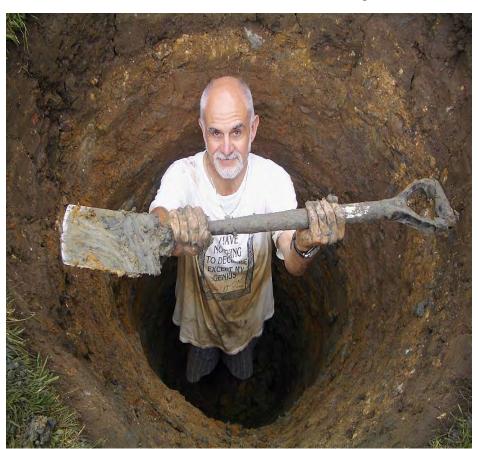






Major Utility Group

Full Technical Specification: "Pls dig a hol"



















What's the Budget?

- Procure a high performing A/E to design a high-end IT lab
- Budget: n/a (Owner did not trust vendors to act in best interest)
- 4 firms attended the site walk, and 2 submitted proposals
- Both firms describe a facility that will be way over budget
- User selects one firm, and has them design project. Still does not trust the vendor, gives \$1M-\$5M range but not the budget
- Vendor designs project at \$4.5M.
- Client then tells the designer their budget is \$1.5M





Impact of Open-Ended / Unclear Specs on Vendor Proposals

- Have to believe the vendor
- Open to interpretation
- Encourages the minimum
- Less consistency in pricing (wide range)
- Less competitive pricing (increased contingency)
- Discourages Vendors from submitting
- Brings you Risk!





University Waste Hauling SOW

5,000+ tons of waste collection across an urban university campus



- "An adequate fleet of collection vehicles should be used and maintained by the Proponent... It is the [Owner's] expectation that collection vehicles designated for service should at a minimum...be less than two years old at the start of the contract"
- In order to support accurate measurements towards the [Owner's] sustainability goals, all vehicles must be solely dedicated to the [Owner] and cannot be used for other sites.





Elevator Maintenance SOW (campus-wide)

- The Proponent shall assign a dedicated maintenance technician to this contract.
- This individual must be solely assigned to this contract and will perform all preventative maintenance & major repairs within the building zone.
- The dedicated maintenance technician shall be provided with office space within the building zone as their base of operations.







Impact of Overly Prescriptive Specs on Vendor Proposals

- "tie the hands" of vendors regarding the work and manner in which it is undertaken
- Can significantly increase cost & schedule
- Removes flexibility to offer strategies & innovations for the specific environment
- Limits the maximum accountability & responsibility vendors have to perform





SOW Development













A "Great" Scope-of-Work:

What would an Expert Vendor need (or want) to know?

What will help them provide you with the best price?

What will help them minimize their contingencies?

What will prevent them from walking away?





Scope of Work Template

1. High Level Overview & Objectives

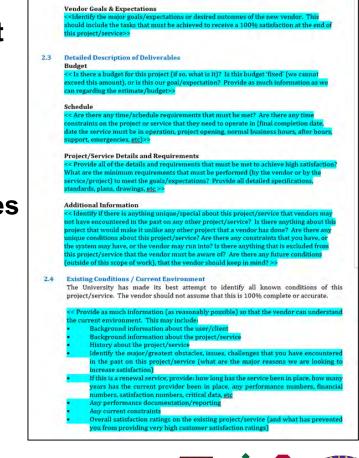
2. Existing Conditions / Current Environment

- 1. Current Condition Volumes, Data, Performance
- 2. Current operation, incumbent vendor resources
- 3. A day in the life of...

3. Description of Deliverables/Reqs/Outcomes

- Budget
- o Schedule
- Project/Service Details and Requirements
- o Additional Information

4. Project Risks & Concerns



re looking to procure/achieve. This should only be a few sentences (or a paragraph

roject/system/service. This should include identifying the tasks that mus secive a 100% satisfaction at the end of this project/service>>

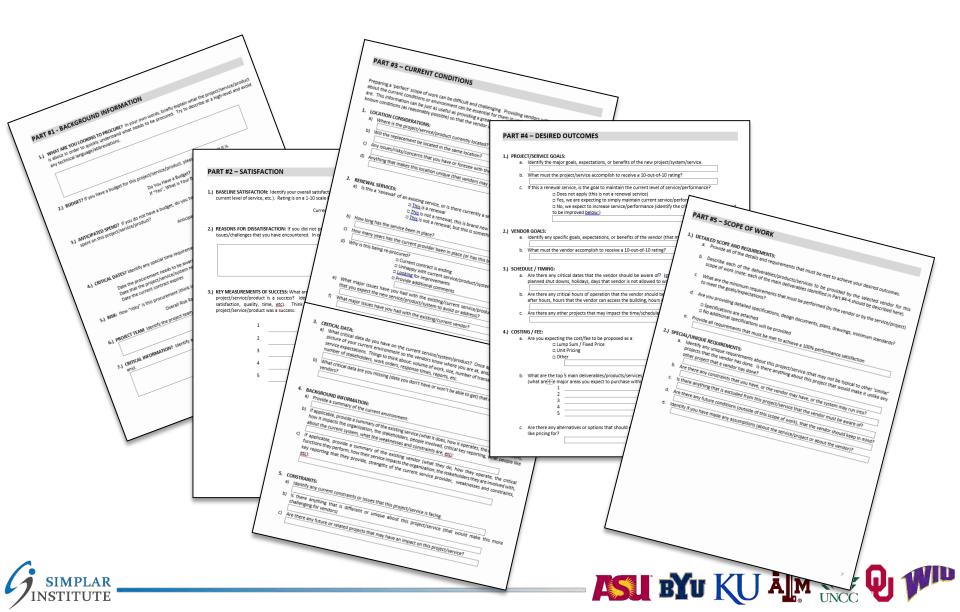
High Level Overview

Goals and Expectations
Project/Service Goals & Expectations





Scope of Work sheet



The "Silver Bullet" of SOW Development













Issue an RFN to the Vendor Community

But with the RIGHT intentions...















An RFN is NOT...

Surveying general capabilities...

Fishing for data...

Seeing what's out there...





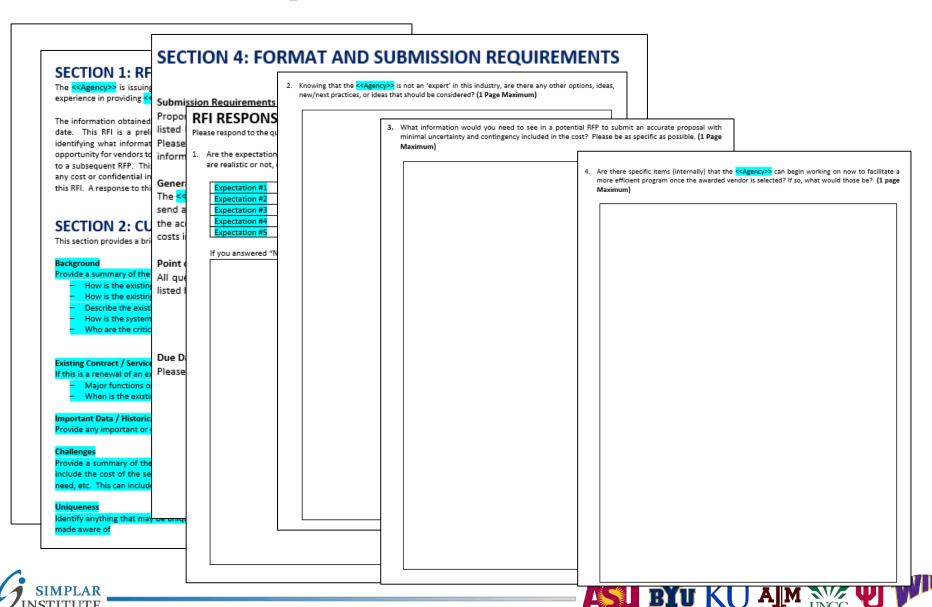
Questions that an RFN can Answer

- 1. What information do Vendors need in order to develop an accurate proposal?o with minimal contingency?
- 2. How should the scope be structured (and why)?
- 3. What can the Owner begin working on **now** to facilitate an efficient project once it is awarded?
- 4. Any other specific questions...





RFN Template



How to Prepare an RFN

1. Create the Scope of Work Sheet

- Emphasis on defining Current Conditions
- Include any objectives/requirements for the Future Conditions that will be different than Current

2. Use the RFN Template

- Copy/Paste the draft SOW
- o Refine the RFN questions to meet project-specific needs

Run the RFN in parallel with RFP development

= NO TIME LOST!!!!





RFN Response – Critical Info

Vendor responses may inquire about...

- Volumes, throughputs
- Occupancy
- Entry/Access
- Rules/regs/restrictions
- Schedules
- Current practices / ops
- Equipment condition
- Current service levels
- Stakeholder involvement
- Etc...

Answer as much as you can

SOW complete!





Example: Seattle City Light

RFN Process (in parallel with RFx Development)

- Friday: created RFN (Draft Scope + RFN Template)
- Monday: Seattle advertised the RFN
- Following Monday: Vendors submitted RFN responses
- Tuesday: "Action Item" list for Seattle's project team
 - Vendors even proposed re-written scope language!
- Thursday: Seattle's Project Team provided answers & documents
- Friday: Released the final RFx with expert-augmented Scope







Don't release and "hope for the best"





When in Doubt...Issue an RFN!!!

Leverage expertise from the industry to check:

- Is our approach feasible?
- What are realistic options?
- What information do vendors need to prepare an accurate proposal with minimal contingency?

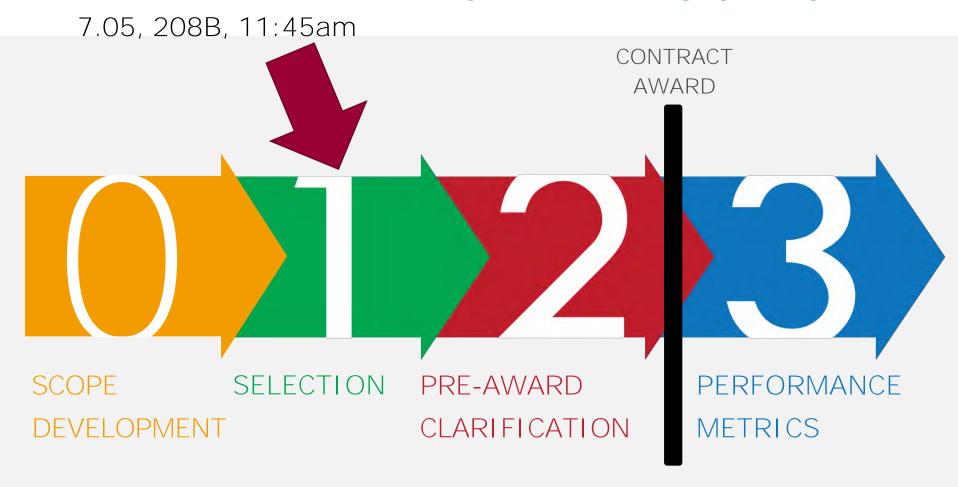
The Client does **NOT** need to know every detail!

- 1. Define current conditions
- 2. Define objectives / requirements / Scope
- 3. Leverage industry feedback





Expertise-Driven Project Delivery (XPD)







Primary Objective: Minimize Surprises









Project Background

Budget: \$67M | 188,000 SF



- Public space / conventions
 - o 40,000 SF Ballroom
 - Meeting rooms
 - Hold two 1,000 person conventions simultaneously
- Schedule
 - RFP Released on 11/21/2016
 - 61 calendar days to submit proposals
 - 12 calendar days to evaluate
 - o 29 calendar days for clarification and award







Procurement Results

CRITERIA & WEIGHTS

NO WEIGHTS **CRITERIA** 250 Cost 1 Risk Assessment 2 225 3 Value Assessment **175** 4 Interviews 350

RAW DATA

FIRM A	FIRM D
\$ 65,605,923	\$ 60,394,872
7.9	8.4
8.8	8.6
8.2	7.6

PRIORITIZED DATA

FIRM A	FIRM D
230	250
212	215
172	164
350	324

1,000

Price Points (250): 23% 25%

Performance Points (750): 73% 70%

TOTAL POINTS (1,000): 96% *95%*















Contractor's Actual Response

- In last 2 City projects that we won, we were about 5% below the average.
- Due to experience of XPD, we included no contractor contingency (\$1 Million)
- Preferred numbers from subcontractors who prefer working with our team (\$700K)
- Self-perform demolition, concrete, and carpentry activities with no mark-ups (\$500K)
- All of our personnel are from the Rochester area (\$300K)
- We did not include a tower crane for this project (\$400K)
- We did not contract to one mechanical and electrical to minimize mark-ups (\$320K)
- There were discussions in the market about teaming up with one excavator / driven pile contractor which was not the team our company used on this project (\$300K)
- We did not assume a full staff for the entire 2.5 years. During certain phases of the project a full staff will be dedicated to this project. However, during smaller phases our staffing will be adjusted to fit the scope (\$250K)





Conclusion & Takeaways















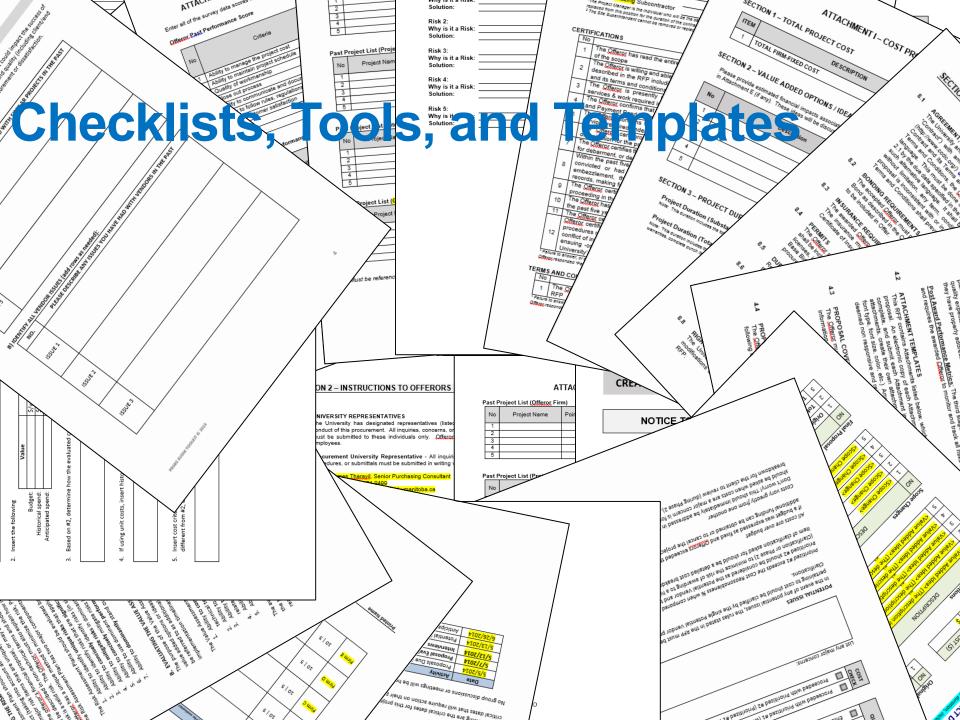
Operations-Focused Procurement Tools

- Clear SOWs give advantage to expert vendors
- Evaluate vendor understanding of the SOW
- Identify, prioritize, and minimize risks to SOW
- Encourage innovative solutions

 All within a fair, transparent, and competitive environment







More than just Templates...



...Vendor education is critical!















Our Research Mission

 We integrate with organizations to provide hands-on training to enhance efficiency, accountability, and bottom-line performance.

- ON-SITE Workshops available upon request
 - Variety of topics within FM, project delivery, and program management





Want a free copy of our SOW or RFN template? Pass me your business card!

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