PART IV - SECTION M
EVALUATION FACTORS FOR AWARD

M.1 Basis for Award

The Government will make award to the responsible offeror whose proposal conforms to the requirements of the SIR and that is determined to offer the "*best value*" to the Government. The Government's evaluation of proposals will consider the offeror's experience proposal (Volume 1) more important than the offeror's cost/price proposal (Volume 2). Therefore, the successful offeror may not be the lowest priced offeror. As the experience and quality of items/delivery performance proposals for each offeror become equal in their technical merit, the evaluated cost/price becomes more important.

The proposals shall be initially screened for conformance to the minimum requirements of the SIR. A proposal which fails to address the requirement of the solicitation and which the FAA considers grossly deficient to the extent that correction would involve significant and major re-writing of the proposal, will be eliminated from the competition. Each section of the proposal and the specifics there under (if any), must be discussed in a separate, clearly identified part of the proposal, in order to facilitate evaluation. It is the responsibility of the offeror to provide all information requested with their initial submission and to fully demonstrate, document, and substantiate all information provided.

The burden of providing thorough and complete information rests with the offeror. Only information supplied in full text in the proposal will be evaluated. **You are cautioned that failure to provide all the required information may result in elimination of your offer from further consideration for award.**

The Government reserves the right to award a contract immediately following conclusions of all the evaluations, and may or may not require communications or negotiations with the successful offeror. Therefore, it is critical that each offer be fully responsive to the SIR and its provisions, and provides its best offer from both a technical and a cost/price standpoint. The Government reserves the right to conduct communications and negotiations with some, all, or none of the competing offerors, as the situation warrants. Any award that may result from this SIR must be deemed fair and reasonable, and must at least meet all technical requirements identified in Section M.3.

No contractual obligation or liability on the part of the Government shall exist unless and until the contract is awarded. Therefore, the offeror will not begin work on the services and other requirements called for by this SIR until after formal notice of contract the Government has issued award.

A technical evaluation team will evaluate all technical proposals, subject to a pre-established evaluation plan. Price proposals will be evaluated on the basis of fair and reasonableness.

M.2 Responsibility

Prior to contract award, the prospective offeror must be determined responsible. To be considered responsible, an offeror must have adequate financial resources to perform the contract or be able to obtain them, be able to comply with the delivery schedule, have a satisfactory performance record, have a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics, have necessary skills, equipment and facilities or ability to obtain them, and be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations. If negative information is received regarding past performance, the offeror will be given the opportunity to respond during the evaluation period.

M.3 Technical Evaluation

The Technical evaluation will be based on one (1) factor: Accelerated Pavement Testing Machine Production Experience; consisting of two (2) subfactors; (a) Experience and (b) Quality of Items/Delivery Performance. The two subfactors are of equal importance. Each of the factors are to be rated by evaluators using the enclosed Technical Evaluation Forms. The narrative sections on the form are to be used to add comments to describe the individual proposal's strong and weak points, as well as the rationale for the ratings assigned.

The currency and relevance of the information, source of the information, context of the data, volume of business and general trends in performance will be considered. Offerors may be given an opportunity to address especially unfavorable reports of past performance and the offeror's response or lack thereof will be taken into consideration.

The narrative sections on the form are to be used to add comments to describe the proposal's strong and weak points, as well as rationale for rating assigned.

Accelerated Pavement Testing Machine Production Experience:

1. **Experience**: The proposal shall contain a detailed discussion of Corporate/Technical approach and past performance. This element will be evaluated on the following points:

   The offeror shall describe the extent of experience producing the same or similar item(s) for a commercial or Government entity within ten (10) years preceding the Screening Information Request (SIR) Solicitation closing date. For each contract, the offeror shall provide:

   (1) The contract/order number
   (2) Date of the contract/order
   (3) The commercial or Government entity point of contact (name, address and telephone number)
   (4) Dollar amount of the contract
   (5) Total contract/order quantity
   (6) Total quantity shipped per month
   (7) Period of performance
   (8) Brief description of the item(s)

For each contract identified in response to paragraph (a) above, the offeror shall provide up to five (5) references. The references will be requested to:

(1) describe the quality of items delivered. For substandard quality, the offeror shall specifically address any warranty actions taken; quality issues complaints. The description of the problem shall also include an explanation for its occurrence, a clear plan or evidence of measures taken to preclude a recurrence and whether or not it was the offeror's fault or subject mitigating circumstances and

(2) specifically indicate whether the items were delivered on time, ahead of or behind schedule. If the items were not delivered on time, the offeror shall also provide the number of days delivered ahead of or behind schedule, whether revised delivery schedules were granted and an explanation for any delivery extensions. For delinquent delivery, the description shall also include an explanation for its occurrence, a clear plan or evidence of measures taken to preclude a recurrence and whether or not the problem was the offeror's fault, otherwise excusable or subject to mitigating circumstances.

M.4 GENERAL

No obligation or liability on part of the FAA shall exist unless and until the contract is awarded. Therefore, no offeror shall begin work on the services and other requirements called by this SIR until after a formal notice of contract award has been issued by the FAA.