

Industry Day Questions and Responses

Many attendees at the US-VISIT Industry Day Conference posed questions concerning the planned Prime Integrator acquisition. The US-VISIT Program Management Organization (PMO) appreciates all questions received and has formed the following responses based on our current best information. In responding to the questions, the PMO grouped them under several topic areas. We look forward to further constructive dialog with prospective industry partners up to the time of RFP release.

SMALL BUSINESS

1. **Question:** Will there be a formal process for involving 8(a)/small, disadvantaged businesses in the US-VISIT project? Will there be stipulations for the prime contractor to utilize SDAB sub-contractors?

Response: There will be overall small business goals stated in the US-VISIT Prime Integrator Request for Proposals (RFP). We will also encourage small business participation by including it as part of the overall evaluation criteria.

2. **Question:** Will there be a small business set aside?

Response: No, because we desire to have a single Prime Integrator to ensure that accountability for overall delivery is placed with a single private sector partner. Small business participation will be through subcontract arrangements with the Prime Integrator.

3. **Question:** How will you incentivize small business participation?

Response: See the response to question no. 1 above. Post contract award, we also anticipate reviewing proposals for potentially large individual task orders to ensure that overall small business goals are being appropriately addressed.

4. **Question:** Are there opportunities for small businesses to bid directly?

Response: See the response to question no. 2 above.

5. **Question:** Will a small business be able to partner with more than one prime?

Response: Subcontractors may be members of more than one proposal team.

6. **Question:** What role do you envision small companies playing?

Response: DHS is a strong supporter of small and disadvantaged companies and expects that the successful bidder will utilize small and disadvantaged businesses and strive to meet the goals as stated in the RFP.

7. **Question:** How can a small business share a prototype that has been built for the entire US-VISIT process?

Response: We recommend that small businesses collaborate with bidding Prime Integrators to share this information. A list of all vendors who attended the US-VISIT Industry Day Conference is posted on the DHS web site at www.dhs.gov as well as on the Federal Business Opportunities website at www.fedbizopps.gov. However, if a small business believes that they have critically important information that the Government needs to hear directly, they can request a meeting with the US-VISIT PMO by contacting Ginger Wilson via email at Ginger.Wilson@dhs.gov. Please include information about the company and the rationale for why it is important that the Government meet directly with the company. The PMO will then make a decision as to whether it is in the Government's best interest to meet directly, discuss the issues via a telephone conversation or simply to respond to the company via email that we want to thank them for their interest but we do not feel it is significantly beneficial for the Government to meet or converse directly with the company.

This approach is not meant to exclude any company, small or large, from participating in the US-VISIT Prime Integrator procurement. As stated at our Industry Day Conference, we are simply trying to implement an efficient process that allows us to issue an RFP this fall. This is the best way we know to be fair to industry—it allows the US-VISIT Program to award a PRIME Integrator contract according to our schedule, while create a bidding opportunity for the private sector within a reasonable period of time.

8. **Question:** Will DHS actively seek out and use U.S. companies, especially small businesses?

Response: Contractor personnel that will need access to agency sensitive or classified information will have to be capable of passing DHS personnel security requirements, including employment eligibility and background investigations. This does not preclude foreign owned businesses from participating in this acquisition, providing they can meet the above requirements where necessary. Also, see the response to question no. 1 above.

9. **Question:** What will the small business goals be for the total procurement?

Response: The agency-level-recommended goals for small business are still being determined, but will be specified in the RFP. Additionally, once we know what these goals will be, the PMO will post them on the US-VISIT website.

10. **Question:** As a small business, how would we know which are the major Primes that you are holding these conversations with?

Response: Upon receipt of this information, with the companies' permission, we will share it with you via the web site (www.dhs.gov). For those potential Prime Offerors, we would appreciate receiving notification from you by August 12th that you intend to bid as a Prime, and that we can share this information. Please send this notification via email to Ginger.Wilson@dhs.gov. If the number of potential prime

bidders is a large number we may consider the possibility of an advisory down select.

11. **Question:** How can a small business identify and market to potential primes?

Response: See the response to question no. 10 above.

12. **Question:** Will the Prime Integrators basically work with the small businesses to accomplish these goals and how soon after do we give them proposals?

Response: Potential Prime Integrators should follow their normal procedures. Also see the responses to questions 1, 2, and 3 above.

13. **Question:** Will you include SDB's in the Group Sessions?

Response: We anticipate that any group meeting would only include potential prime bidders. As stated in our Industry Day Conference, we will provide updates via the US-VISIT website to keep all companies informed of our overall direction and any significant changes related to the US-VISIT Program. Also see the response to question no. 7 above.

PRIME INTEGRATOR

14. **Question:** Why only one Prime?

Response: The intent of this acquisition is to create a partnership between the US-VISIT Program and a single Prime Integrator, based on a shared mission and set of strategic goals and objectives that will facilitate the Program's success. The US-VISIT PMO strongly believes that to ensure the Program's success and shared accountability as well, we must work with a single partner. Additionally, the complexity and size of this Program requires significant integration of the work being performed as well as significant communications, both internal to the program as well as external. The use of a single Prime Integrator is necessary to address these Program complexities.

15. **Question:** Will there be a separate IV&V contract?

Response: There has been no final decision made yet regarding whether to engage a separate Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) contractor. As of this time, the PMO anticipates using its federally funded research and development contractor (FFRDC) to conduct the IV&V activities. However, we do expect that the Prime Integrator will have overall initial testing accountability to ensure delivery of successful solutions.

16. **Question:** Do you envision the prime relationship to be a more static alliance of prime “team partners” or a more fluid relationship of many, many vendors/integrators managed by the Prime?

Response: We expect the Prime Integrator to propose an actionable near-term solution(s) that may likely include other partners. We encourage the potential Prime Integrators to maintain teaming arrangements that allow the Prime Integrator, for future solutions for US-VISIT, to be able to continuously draw on the best the private sector has to offer without regard to partnership agreements so that all proposed solutions are constructed in the Government’s best interest.

17. **Question:** How will you ensure the companies with the serious technologies will be a part of the prime contractor group you select?

Response: A key factor in the Government’s selection of a single Prime Integrator will be the demonstrated ability of the successful Offeror to meet the broad range of technological and management challenges that are inherently necessary to execute a program of the complexity and magnitude of US-VISIT. Offerors will be evaluated based on their ability to provide and manage the necessary technologies, whether through in-house or subcontracted resources.

TSA

18. **Question:** Is there an intended or perceived relationship between US-VISIT and TSA’s registered traveler pilot?

Response: Not at this time, but there are ongoing discussions with TSA regarding how to optimize our various programs where there may be potential linkages.

19. **Question:** What role will the TSA ITMS contract have on US-VISIT?

Response: None.

20. **Question:** TSA used a very rapid procurement process to award their \$1 Billion ITMS contract. Will US-VISIT use a similar rapid reward process with small proposal submissions?

Response: Our general schedule and approach were outlined in the Industry Day briefing. We will further define our acquisition approach in the coming months but, at this time, we do not expect to use the same process that TSA used. The acquisition TSA used was appropriate for their needs; our acquisition approach will be developed to meet the US-VISIT needs. We encourage industry to provide recommendations for proposed effective and streamlined procurement strategies.

21. **Question:** Regarding the briefing about TSA contributing to the solution required by 12/03: What will TSA's specific contribution be? Technology? Process? Infrastructure?

Response: It is anticipated that TSA personnel will assist in exit processing at air ports. TSA may also be able to help with technology and infrastructure in the exit process. This solution is still being examined to determine its viability and to ensure appropriate resources can be obtained to make the solution successful.

TECHNOLOGY

22. **Question:** What is your position on managed services to relieve the Government of the "short technology horizon" and technology upgrade investments and headaches?

Response: Managed service contracts are not currently envisioned for US-VISIT; however we will continue to review this possibility.

23. **Question:** How much of the technology must be commercial off the shelf (COTS)?

Response: The Government does not envision setting a firm requirement on what percentage of the technology must be COTS. However, the Government does expect Offerors to utilize COTS products to the maximum extent possible. Offerors should propose technologies that consider the tradeoffs between the needs to provide the best solution, to minimize risk to delivery and to ensure proper integration while understanding the impact on border operations of any system failures.

24. **Question:** Do your legacy systems go away?

Response: It is anticipated that US-VISIT will encompass the functionality of several legacy systems and will interface with many other legacy systems. Decisions on exactly which legacy systems to retire after US-VISIT implementation have not yet been made. Some of these decisions may be made with the Prime Integrator.

25. **Question:** What systems do we look forward to retiring?

Response: See the response to question no. 24 above.

26. **Question:** Has a decision been made on a biometrics software provider?

Response: No.

27. **Question:** What are the requirements for border patrol access to and interaction with the US-VISIT system?

Response: It is anticipated that a variety of organizations, including the border patrol, will have access to US-VISIT. Specific business processes associated with this use have yet to be determined.

28. **Question:** Are you currently working with any private industry to develop the infrastructure for this network and have you made a decision on the biometric? What system are you going to use?

Response: As stated in the Industry Day presentation, we are working with existing contractors to provide Increment 1 functionality with two fingerprints and a digital photograph. However, we expect the system to be a dynamic and evolving one and we expect the Prime Integrator to influence the future decisions.

29. **Question:** With reference to the infrastructure components, will that be procured through the Prime Integrator? I was looking back at the IRS modernization, where there was a little bit of a mixed strategy there, and I was wondering if you could elaborate on that?

Response: There will be certain infrastructure components in the future that we would assume the Prime Integrator would build for us. However, much of the infrastructure may be obtained through other contract arrangements. These issues are still being discussed with Steve Cooper, the DHS CIO.

There are a number of other projects in DHS that are major modernization projects (e.g., legacy INS, ACE). Steve Cooper's job will be to integrate the existing resources that might have been spent individually and bring those together. The chances are that the major infrastructure for the Department would be provided to the US-VISIT Program. It is important that the US-VISIT PMO work closely not only with the Department CIO, but also with the State Department and other federal agencies as well. One of the functions the Prime Integrator will have is to understand how this all fits together and work carefully to make sure that we are optimizing our investments as we proceed with future infrastructure.

30. **Question:** Could you elaborate on how you see the role of biometrics, not for the authentication process which is the one-to-one at the time of entry to verify identity, but in the prescreening or the clearance process? Are you envisioning that the biometric identifiers will be captured at the embassy and if so are we talking about a full suite of them that will allow you to do an effective one-to-many search or are these issues still being addressed at this point in time?

Response: We are working closely with the State Department as part of our mandate from the Homeland Security Act to oversee the visa issuance process. The goal is to capture biometrics as early in the process as possible, reducing the wait time at the Ports of Entry. We are working with the State Department to have two fingerprints and a photograph taken at their consular offices. As you know, there is a mandate to have biometrically enabled travel documents after 10/26/04.

FUNDING

31. **Question:** It was mentioned that Congress has approved the initial funding for Increment 1. How much of the \$380 Million will be utilized for Increment 1?

Response: Approximately \$210M. The remainder of the funding is for management of the Program and future increments.

32. **Question:** Please elaborate upon the estimated total funding for the program from Increment 1 through Increment 4.

Response: Life Cycle Cost Estimates for the entire US-VISIT Program are still being developed and will be discussed first within the Executive Branch and then with Congress. However it is anticipated that this will be a multi-billion dollar program implemented over the next ten years.

INCREMENTAL APPROACH

33. **Question:** Is Increment 1 already awarded and what new technology and equipment is being used?

Response: Existing technology and contracts within the DHS are being used to implement the systems and infrastructure changes for Increment 1 since this work is within the current scope of work for these contractors. The major functionality for increment 1 will come from leveraging and integrating the Interagency Border Inspection System (IBIS), which includes the Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS), the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IDENT) and the Arrival and Departure Information System (ADIS). IBIS/APIS will receive arrival and departure data from carriers, conduct biographic watch list checks, validate visa data and interface with the Inspector for the inspection processing. IDENT will provide the biometric capture, biometric watch list checks, and biometric validation and responses for entry and exit. ADIS will store and match arrival and departure information, interface with other systems to update any changes in status and provide query and reporting capabilities. Infrastructure enhancements will include telecommunication upgrades, local area network upgrades, and workstation upgrades.

34. **Question:** What contracts and contractors will be used to work on Increment 1? If the US-VISIT RFP will not be released until late fall, it seems other contracts will be needed for the first and second increments.

Response: The US-VISIT Program will deliver an initial operating capability, Increment 1, to air and sea Ports of Entry (POE) by December 31, 2003 for both entry and exit that includes the use of biometrics for identity verification and to

check foreign nationals against watch lists. Increment 1 will be developed, integrated and deployed through enhancements to legacy systems and infrastructure. Existing DHS contracts and contractors will be used for delivering Increment 1 and possibly for parts of Increment 2. The proposed solutions provided by the Prime Integrator, as well as the Prime Integrator's ability to quickly ramp-up, will determine the Prime Integrator's involvement in Increment 2.

35. **Question:** What contract vehicle will be used to deploy and maintain the biometric reader deployed in Increments 2A, 2B and 3? Will it be the Northrop Grumman and INS team contract?

Response: This decision has not been made yet but there may be separate acquisition approaches based on each Increment and also based on the Prime Integrator acquisition.

36. **Question:** How close are you to finalizing Increment 1?

Response: Current plans are for Increment 1 to be deployed by 12/31/03. For the majority of Increment 1, our plans are now final regarding the use of contractors.

37. **Question:** Could you please elaborate on what you are complying with by the end of 2003 because it looks like the contract for the US-VISIT Prime would be awarded in May? So are you intending to comply with the spirit of the law using existing programs and if so what are those programs?

Response: The goals for 12/31/03 are to have an integrated entry and exit system that captures all the existing arrival and departure data, as well as capturing biometrics, at the air and sea Ports of Entry. To meet the 12/31/03 goals, the PMO is using existing contracts and technologies, such as the fingerprint scan devices we have in secondary booths today at air and sea Ports of Entry, and moving this to a primary booth. This work is being done by current contractors since it is an extension of the work they are already currently performing.

See the responses to question nos. 33 and 34 as well.

FACILITIES

38. **Question:** Will there be a mandate to use "Green Power" (solar, wind, etc.) for US-VISIT on new facilities?

Response: It is not anticipated that such a mandate will be included in the RFP.

39. **Question:** Along with having a single integrator, will there be a single Facilities management contractor and how large is their envisioned scope?

Response: No, the US-VISIT PMO will manage and integrate the facilities work and will use the General Services Administration to execute design and construction for US-VISIT. GSA will use Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts for design/construction using their normal acquisition processes.

40. **Question:** The Facilities division presentation included “outdated IT” as a problem. Will Facilities be responsible for upgrading the IT at ports of entry?

Response: No, this will be the responsibility of the Prime Integrator in coordination with the US-VISIT PMO.

41. **Question:** Will DHS award the contracts to support Facility requirements or will those contracts be done by GSA on behalf of DHS?

Response: The contracts will be awarded by GSA.

42. **Question:** Please post the Facilities planning (entry, exit, mission ops) and risk parameters used for sizing the construction program.

Response: These are based on operational requirements and are still being determined.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

43. **Question:** How are you planning to encompass foreign countries, such as Mexico, in the sense that illegal entries to Mexico could be as dangerous as entries to the U.S. given the fact that most illegal immigrants cross the border without documentation?

Response: Working with our foreign counterparts is critical to the success of the US-VISIT Program. However, the US-VISIT system will only process individuals who attempt to enter the country via a Port of Entry. Tracking and intercepting of those who illegally enter the U.S. (via means other than a Port of Entry) is not in the scope of US-VISIT, other than the need for Border Patrol Agents to have access to US-VISIT information as noted above.

44. **Question:** How will technologies, business processes, systems, etc., that are deployed as part of US-VISIT be made available to foreign governments that are high volume sources of entry/exit? (e.g. Mexico, Canada, Great Britain)

Response: As part of our outreach program, we intend to communicate extensively with foreign governments to ensure they understand all impacts of the new processes and systems.

Direct interfacing and access to US-VISIT by foreign governments is currently not a requirement. Current plans are to make information from US-VISIT available to foreign governments through interfaces with domestic systems that already exist.

45. **Question:** What will be the nature of integrations/interfaces with systems of foreign governments, especially those of non-U.S. countries? (e.g. British Foreign Officer)

Response: Direct interfaces through the US-VISIT system with systems of foreign governments are not planned at this time. It is currently planned that US-VISIT will obtain information from foreign governments through interfaces with domestic systems that already exist.

46. **Question:** Could you expand a little bit on our international partners and what we hope they will do in terms of their own passports?

Response: We would like our international partners to move together with us so that by October 26, 2004 we will all start issuing a biometric component for our passports. We expect other countries to do this as well and gradually we will not accept anything but passports that have the biometric feature. The International Civil Aviation Office is the international authority that helps set international standards. We are working very closely with this Office and believe all countries are moving in the same direction. Some countries are ahead of us, but we cannot move in isolation. We look forward to our partnership internationally to ensure that we are all adding the same type of biometric protection to our travel documents.

POLICY

47. **Question:** Are there any policy decisions that you can envision that will slow the RFP release and/or program arrival? What are they?

Response: The US-VISIT PMO is currently working closely with the Border and Transportation Security Assistant Secretary for Policy on policy issues that will affect the release of the RFP and ultimate implementation of the Program. The RFP release date remains on schedule.

48. **Question:** What is your number one policy challenge?

Response: The US-VISIT PMO is currently working with the Border and Transportation Security Assistant Secretary for Policy to identify potential policy challenges. It would be premature for the PMO to state that we have a number one policy challenge at this time. We anticipate that over time we will have numerous policy challenges which will need to be addressed.

OUTREACH

49. **Question:** How is the quality of the collaboration of Government with airports and airlines?

Response: DHS and the Department of Transportation are maintaining an ongoing dialogue with airports, airlines, and the cruise industry regarding the implications of process changes revolving around US-VISIT. We anticipate even more outreach with these partners in the future.

50. **Question:** Will Outreach activities be part of initial RFP?

Response: Outreach activities are not currently planned to be part of the Prime Integrator RFP. It is likely that the Government will use its own outreach contractor. In this case, the Prime Integrator would be expected to work closely with this contractor. A final decision on this will be made as part of defining overall requirements for the US-VISIT Prime Integrator acquisition.

MISCELLANEOUS

51. **Question:** Where should we start in terms of finding the right contacts for DHS and US-VISIT?

Response: Contact information for the US-VISIT PMO is contained on the DHS web site (www.dhs.gov). In addition, a complete list of all companies who attended the Industry Day Conference is posted on the web site. To ensure that proper coordination of accurate information regarding the program is provided, companies are encouraged to contact the US-VISIT PMO, via email to Ginger.Wilson@dhs.gov if they feel other contact information is necessary.

52. **Question:** How will you measure whether or not the current inspections timeframes are being maintained or decreasing?

Response: DHS continually monitors performance at Ports of Entry. Innovative approaches for measuring performance will be encouraged.

53. **Question:** How will visitors be tracked once they enter the U.S.?

Response: Regarding status management, if a visitor requests a change in status (e.g., an extension of stay) once they are in the U.S., US-VISIT will interface with the appropriate system that contains this data and update the visitors profile in US-VISIT. Records of overstays will be made available to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE) and they will initiate the appropriate action depending on case circumstances.

54. **Question:** Where and how will enforcement track down visitors breaking rules?

Response: See the response to question no. 53 above.

55. **Question:** What connectivity do Border Patrol sectors and stations need?

Response: Access to US-VISIT information as stated above.

56. **Question:** What level of importance will be placed on “benefits?” Will “benefits” keep pace with the US-VISIT program?

Response: See the response to question no. 53 above.

57. **Question:** Is this a modernization program? Are you acquiring modernization or is US-VISIT a new vision/program?

Response: The intent of US-VISIT is to both modernize capabilities that currently exist (e.g., pre-entry and entry processing), and implement new capabilities that currently do not exist (e.g., exit processing).

58. **Question:** If an unsuccessful bidder proposed an approach or project, which is unique (proprietary) & useful, how would the Government envision taking advantage of the idea or approach?

Response: The US-VISIT PMO will work with the selected Prime Integrator to deploy the solution that will best meet Government requirements. The Government will approve the proposed solution but wants to be careful not to specify the solution as the Government does not want to potentially become accountable for being the integrator.

59. **Question:** Will a list of attendees from today and others who have shown interest be made available for the purpose of forming partner teams?

Response: The attendees list from the Industry Day Conference has been posted on the US-VISIT web site at www.dhs.gov and has already been emailed to all the attendees. Also see the response to question no. 7 above.

60. **Question:** On what extent will you provide full disclosure of the Exhibit 300 form, so that Industry can understand your business cases?

Response: The Exhibit 300 will be made available once approved.

61. **Question:** To what degree do you expect the RFP to be in the form of a statement of objective?

Response: The Government envisions that the RFP will be performance-based. Whether the RFP will contain a statement of objectives or a statement of work will be determined as the acquisition approach is further defined.

62. **Question:** Do you envision 100% performance-based objectives or having a subset being performance-based.

Response: This is yet to be determined.

63. **Question:** Is it accurate to say that all “roll out” of US-VISIT is out of the envisioned procurement?

Response: The Prime Integrator will, in general, be fully accountable for delivery of future incremental functionality, with the exception of Increment 1. See the response to question no. 34 above.

64. **Question:** How are prototype developers selected?

Response: The US-VISIT Program does not envision that prototype developers will be selected separately other than as part of a Prime Integrator proposed team.

65. **Question:** How do we submit a system for testing?

Response: System testing will be done by the Prime Integrator team, and will be monitored by the PMO. In addition, the PMO anticipates that the Government will perform some level of acceptance testing.

66. **Question:** What type of personnel will be appointed to the PMO organization, as briefed by Jim Williams?

Response: The PMO will be staffed by both Government personnel and contractors.

67. **Question:** Would the US-VISIT PMO consider moving PM services and SETA services to a separate contractor vs. bundling with the Prime Integrator?

Response: As stated above, the US-VISIT PMO will have additional program management support through existing contract vehicles. We do not envision having a separate contractor perform system engineering tasks – this will be done primarily through the Prime Integrator.

68. **Question:** What role will the INS TEAMS contract have on US-VISIT?

Response: The US-VISIT PMO currently envisions using the existing INS TEAMS contract to provide help desk, on site technical support and infrastructure support for US-VISIT.

69. **Question:** If US-VISIT is a critical program for the U.S. and has high visibility, will the PMO consider acquiring an IV&V contractor?

Response: See the response to question no. 15 above.

70. **Question:** If you could go back to the timeline (Solicitation and Selection Schedule) and just kind of indicate, if you would, when you think you will have it finalized as to who you want the bidders to be?

Response: See the response to question no. 10 above.

71. **Question:** Will the Prime Integrator contract take the place of or augment existing purchasing vehicles used by DHS for the acquisition of information technology products and services (e.g., STARS)? What solutions and services may be acquired/procured using these current vehicles?

Response: The US-VISIT Prime Integrator contract will augment DHS's existing purchasing vehicles. However, the US-VISIT PMO's intent is to use the Prime Integrator vehicle to the maximum extent possible. As such, the PMO intends to use the Prime Integrator's team for the preponderance of US-VISIT activities, except facilities related activities, providing that the Prime Integrator can provide the best solution at a reasonable price. The PMO reserves the right, however, to use other contract vehicles when they provide the best value to the US-VISIT Program.

72. **Question:** During the Industry Day presentation, Mr. Williams stated that the contract would be an ID/IQ contract with performance based task orders. Can the PMO share with Industry the performance incentive structure it is planning to use?

Response: The US-VISIT PMO is committed to performance-based contracting, including the use of both incentives and disincentives, when appropriate. As a "partner", the US-VISIT PMO believes that the Prime Integrator should share in both the risks and rewards. Examples of the performance incentives the PMO is considering are the use of fixed price contracts, award fees, incentive fees, and cost-sharing and savings. The PMO is very interested in having the potential Prime Integrators share their innovative approaches to performance-based contracting and is considering including the analysis of these approaches as part of the evaluation criteria.

73. **Question:** Regarding the CMM Level 3 rating qualification that the PMO proposed during Industry Day, is this just for the Prime Integrator or are all team members required to have a Level 3 rating, especially our small business partners?

Response: The PMO has not made a final decision on this yet, however the Prime Integrator will have to have a Level 3 rating. We also anticipate requiring a Level 3 rating for any team members involved in software development.

74. **Question:** Does US-VISIT envision using oral presentations as part of the proposal evaluation process?

Response: This decision has not been made yet, however the PMO currently plans to exercise a streamlined source selection, which would likely include the use of oral presentations.

75. **Question:** Regarding the potential qualification criteria, can those criteria be met through a team as opposed to a single contractor?

Response: Those potential qualification criteria were offered to provide some sense of the capabilities and capacities the Government believes are crucial for success of the US-VISIT Prime Integrator. If these criteria become final, a Prime Integrator can propose to meet these criteria with its team. However, the Government will likely evaluate how well that team has worked together in the past, how much they have worked together, and whether the past work has been on programs that are relevant in size and scope.