

offerings, certain sub-components and closely related accessories may be competed separately for by-item competition, such as rifle/carbine ergonomic improvements, a matching Family of Muzzle Brake/Suppressors (FMBS), and Extended Life Barrels (ELB). This acquisition strategy is not yet approved, and vendors responding to this announcement are invited to comment on the strategy. INVITATION TO COMMENT: Draft Acquisition Strategy and Performance Specifications for the EGLM / PMOD will be available on or about 8 June 2001 for comment on the Crane web page at <http://www.crane.navy.mil/supply/announce.htm>

NOTICE: This notice is for informational purposes only. This CAA does not constitute an invitation for bids or a Request for Proposal (RFP) and is not a commitment by the SOPMOD Program to procure subject equipment. No solicitation document exists at this time. The government does not intend to award on the basis of this CAA. Nothing in this announcement constitutes an obligation on the part of the government. The government will not pay for submissions resulting from this announcement. The SOPMOD program office will not provide M203 grenade launcher parts drawings or M16/M4 rifle/carbine parts drawings. INVITATION: In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 15.202- ADVISORY MULTI-STEP PROCESS, the Government invites potential offerors to submit a concept paper or preliminary proposal. Offerors are invited to respond to this CAA by outlining, in broad terms, innovative ways by which they believe they could meet the objectives described above. Offerors are invited to freely comment on this announcement, the acquisition strategy, and the draft specifications. The concept paper/preliminary proposal is for this particular requirement is limited to 3 pages in length. This summary concept paper/preliminary proposal may include additional attachments, describing the proposed item (design, type of material, approach in meeting the above requirements); projected unit price for the PMOD and EGLM (supporting cost/pricing data is not required or desired); and the projected delivery schedule in terms of monthly production capability, beginning 2002 for PMOD and 2004 for EGLM. Also attached may be comments on the draft performance specification and acquisition strategy. Potential offerors are also encouraged to submit a sample or prototype of their proposed items, or baseline commercial items that they intend to improve. Offerors shall also identify whether they are a small business. The applicable Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code for this acquisition is 3421 and the size standard is 500 employees. EVALUATION: The Government will evaluate all concept papers/preliminary proposals and samples submitted. SOPMOD will hold an industry conference to discuss this and other SOPMOD projects and solicit further industry comment prior to release of the Request for Commercial Offering (RCO) solicitation. This conference has been announced separately (SOL N00164-00-R-0135) [Commerce Business Daily; Posted in CDBNet on May 21, 2001] [Printed Issue Date: May 23, 2001]. During this conference (exact time will be coordinated with each individual offeror) the Government will conduct one-on-one conferences with each individual offeror who submitted a concept paper/preliminary proposal. The purpose of this process will be to inform potential offerors whether or not the Government believes they will be a viable competitor in this acquisition and the reasons for that opinion. This process will not preclude offerors from participating in the resultant acquisition. Concept papers/preliminary proposals and samples will be accepted until June 25, 2001 at 2:00p.m. (EST). Information submitted will not be returned and will not be discussed with any other potential offeror. Samples, if submitted, will be returned to the vendor after evaluation. Based on the responses received, the above outlined specification and acquisition strategy will be refined and a solicitation