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October 24th, 2003

Attention: Proposer

Subject: Request for Proposal (RFP) No. SPTT - 102403
Mars Science Laboratory Subsonic Parachute

The JPL Mars Exploration Program (MEP), Mars Technology Office is conducting design and development activities in preparation for the Mars Science Laboratory mission scheduled for launch in 2009. The current approach to this mission involves a Parachute Decelerator System (PDS) with a 33.5 meter diameter ringsail parachute and a 22 square meter drag area drogue parachute.

JPL invites your organization to submit a response to the enclosed RFP for the design, development, and fabrication of a Parachute Decelerator System. The goal of this effort is to deliver a PDS that JPL will test in a series of high-altitude flights in September 2004. Using information learned in these flights, JPL intends to issue another RFP in 2005 for the design and fabrication of additional test parachutes, with the option to build parachutes for the flight mission.

There are two primary parts to this RFP, the RFP instructions and their attachments, and the Specimen Contract with its exhibits.

Based upon the availability of funding JPL intends to award up to two subcontracts for parallel work on this effort. Initial funding for this effort is anticipated but not guaranteed from the Mars Focused Technology budget. Contract award pursuant to this RFP is contingent upon release of the funds and the existence of a valid task order for this work under the JPL-NASA prime contract.

All material contained in the RFP will be posted on the JPL website <http://acquisition.jpl.nasa.gov/rfp/PDS> Included on this website are the RFP, Specimen Contract, and Applicable Documents.

The undersigned JPL procurement representative must receive proposals no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, on November 24th, 2003. Questions concerning this RFP should be directed by email only to the undersigned at; Rodney.S.Fowler@jpl.nasa.gov . Questions received after 12 noon Pacific Time November 17th will not receive a response.

Sincerely,

Rodney Fowler
Subcontract Manager

Enclosures: RFP
Specimen Contract, Exhibit 1 to the Specimen Contract
JPL Forms as marked on JPL Form 2839