

MAPPS NOAA Agency Liaison Committee Meeting
JW Marriott Hotel, Washington DC
March 18, 2003

SUMMARY REPORT

Attendees:

Kurt Allen, Chair, Greenhorne & O'Mara
Mike Gibson, OCS/NOAA
Bill Bernard, 3DI
Jon Bailey, NGS/NOAA
Tony Follett, AeroMap U.S. Inc.
Rick Schwabacher, NOAA
Don Jagoe, SAIC
Anne Hale Miglarese, CSC/NOAA
Chris Barnard, EarthData International Inc.
Charles Challstrom, NGS/NOAA
Larry Whiting, TerraSurveys
Gary Magnuson, NOS/NOAA
Bobby Tuck, Tuck Engineering
David MacFarland, NOAA
Bill Gutelius, Optech Inc.
Gene Colabatistto, Space Imaging
Bill Daniel, Lowe Engineers
Tom Spurling, Tenix LADS, Inc.
Bob Richards, Thales GeoSolutions, Inc.
Monty Deel, 3Di Technologies, Inc.
Tim Dayhuff, Western Air Maps, Inc.
Fred Henstridge, Psomas
Tor Andrews, CompassCom, Inc.

Agenda Item:

1. Contracting Status

A. Office of Coast Survey

i. Current Hydrographic Survey Contracting – NOAA currently has the following contracts underway:

A. Alaska 4 – a four year, up to \$40 million contract awarded to Thales GeoSolutions. The contract expires in August 2004 and the total obligated to date is \$19.7 million. More than \$8 million are intended to be awarded by NOAA under this contract in FY03 for projects along the SW Alaska Peninsula and Prince William Sound.

B. Gulf of Mexico 2 - a five year, up to \$20 million contract awarded to C&C Technologies. The contract is due to expire in August 2006 and the total obligated to date is \$8.7 million. An additional \$4 million are intended to be awarded by NOAA for FY03.

C. National LiDAR Anywhere – a three year, up to \$12 million contract recently awarded to Tenix LADS. The contract expires in 2006 and up to \$3 million are scheduled to be awarded in FY03 under this new contract. First task order is for work along the Shumagin Islands and Vicinity.

D. Hydro Anywhere (except AK) – a five year, up to \$20 million contract recently awarded to SAIC. This contract expires in 2008 and NOAA expects to award up to \$3 million in FY03 for work along the New Jersey coast and the Mid-Atlantic.

ii. Anticipated Hydrographic Survey Contracting

A. Alaska 5 – NOAA anticipates awarding a five year, \$10 million contract as a Small Business Set Aside. This contract was advertised in February with an anticipated selection and award in June. Up to \$2 million may be awarded to the successful contractor in FY03. First task order is to be for work in Kasaan Bay, AK.

iii. Hydrographic Survey Contracts about to Expire

A. NorthEast US – This three year, up to \$9 million contract to SAIC expires in April 2003. No additional awards are expected on this contract vehicle. More than \$8.2 million was awarded under this contract.

B. Alaska 3 – This three year, up to \$6 million Small Business Set Aside contract expires in June 2003. Terra Surveys held this contract and more than \$5.7 million was awarded.

iv. Time Charter – This contract to provide hydrographic services in support of the time charter is expected to be awarded in July. SAIC was selected (pending negotiation). The contract has a base year and four option years.

v. Electronic Navigational Charts - NOAA has several non-A&E contracts currently in place to support the building of the ENC databases. The scope of these non A/E contracts involve digitizing services and the capture of original charting information into a digital format. More than 1000 charts are required to be digitally captured and maintained. To date, 248 charts have been completed in-house (with the assistance of the non A/E 8a set aside contracts). NOAA currently plans to complete and maintain an additional 87 charts (for a total of 335) in FY03. NOAA expects an additional \$2 million in funding for ENC construction to address the backlog and the agency is looking for the private sector to assist. The Coast Survey is pushing for an A/E Contract for the Construction and Maintenance of ENCs for FY04 with multiple awards. This decision is being discussed with NOAA's contracting office.

vi. ENC Certification – As required under the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, NOAA is in the process of establishing a plan and timeline for establishing a quality assurance program to certify hydrographic products. Because of the vast differences in the way private vendors wish to use NOAA charting data, NOAA has developed a three pronged approach to this certification as described below:

A. Certified Distributor of NOAA ENC Data – A draft agreement for ENC data is under legal review with an anticipated final clearance this fiscal year. Several companies are already distributing ENC data as a “One-Stop-Shopping” service.

B. Certified Distributor of SENC Data – NOAA is drafting an agreement for certification of a company's system ENC data. Work on this agreement is nearly

complete and ready for legal review with an anticipated completion within the next 12-16 months.

C. Development of an Industry Standard for ECS Data – NOAA and the Coast Guard have been sponsors of an ISO standard for an industry certification of electronic chart system (ECS) data. This is an industry standard for data that is not intended for navigational use by SOLAS vessels but could be used by smaller commercial or recreational vessels. This has gone to final review and NOAA expects final approval in August/September this year.

B. National Geodetic Survey

i. Height Modernization Program – National Geodetic Survey Director Charles Challstrom gave a status report on pending contacts under the national height modernization program. There are currently four contractors working in North Carolina under NOAA Height Modernization Contracts. Funding for this program is as follows:

Note: FY02 includes grants to North Carolina, South Carolina, California, Louisiana, and Wisconsin (with carryover of FY01 funds). FY03 includes grants to North Carolina, South Carolina, California, Louisiana, Wisconsin, and Mississippi. FY04 includes grants to North Carolina, South Carolina, and California. Of all the States listed, only the earmark language for North Carolina allows NOAA to directly contract with the private sector for the work. The other states involve an earmark to a University or a State agency in which they would likely perform the task of administering a contract with the private sector.

ii. Shoreline Mapping Program –Jon Bailey gave a status report on pending contacts under the NOAA shoreline-mapping program. Five contracts were awarded for shoreline mapping for the Coastal Mapping Program. NGS personnel have visited all firms. A first task order was awarded to each firm and aerial photography was captured on two of these projects (to date). A second round of tasking is currently being prepared. Anticipated contracting for this program is as follows:

iii. Airport Surveys – The group discussed the problem with funding with this program and the relationship between FAA and NGS. The funding for this program has a history of fluctuating with events affecting funding availability. A new Airport Aerial Photography contract is on indefinite hold due to lack of funding. Any work that will be contracted will be released through existing contract vehicles with USACE.

iv. Misc. - National Geodetic Survey Director Charles Challstrom shared some specific feedback from NGS for the private sector as to their experience over the last few years with regards contracting out professional services using QBS. The following matrix encapsulates their comments (which were viewed favorably as good feedback by the group):

C. Coastal Services Center

i. Outsourcing Plans – Approximately \$1.5 million will be contracted out to the private sector for land cover, topography, and benthic mapping. This FY03 work includes land cover and topography services in support of NOAA's Broad Area Announcement (BAA) for Coastal Management and additional procurements for remote sensing data to support the Digital Coast Initiative pilot in the Louisiana/ Mississippi area and for digital airborne multispectral imagery to support Oyster Recovery Initiatives along the South Carolina coast.

ii. Broad Area Announcement (BAA) for Coastal Management for FY04 – CSC is looking for coastal management issues that are amenable to remote sensing technology. The BAA is for the Coastal Management Community (state, local and academia) in the form of a small dollar grant (\$25 K) to identify pressing coastal issues. CSC will then handle (and contract out) all needs for remotely sensed data (estimated at as much as \$1 million) to support the issues identified through the BAA. The BAA will be published in June 2003 with BAA proposal due in October 2003 for FY04 award.

iii. Water Quality RFI – NOAA has recently released an announcement through FedBizOps to determine industry capabilities with respect to remote sensing technologies to determine estuarine water quality. The RFI asks for capabilities, methodologies, and general cost estimates. Areas of focus include the determination of Chlorophyll concentration, turbidity, temperature, and salinity. NOAA is interested in existing operational capability and quick turn-around solutions.

2. Status on Law of the Sea

Discussed possible hydrographic surveying task orders (for existing contracts) that may be awarded in FY03 valued at \$3 million to support claims by the United States under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone).

3. Port Security/Homeland Security

NOAA resources were shifted to port surveying during FY02. This data will be used to update the Nautical Charts. The Navy will also use this data as a baseline for mine detection. What was discovered by the original surveys has led to the need for lot of new survey requirements in support this new requirement. Funding is also needed for this requirement. This could be a major contracting opportunity, and if funding becomes available, NOAA plans to utilize existing NOAA hydrographic services contract vehicles. A wording change on Congressional Appropriations for Hydrographic Services is desired to increase flexibility in these contract vehicles so that task orders can be allocated for this type of service. The current language is specific to "reducing the survey backlog."

4. Review of October Action Items

Old Business item from October meeting was the ongoing concern about NOAA's procurement process. MAPPS-NOAA committee members agreed that the NOAA procurement process was vastly improved but that the legal review process continues to be a major challenge.