

# Contracting for Lidar

## USGS Perspective

# Need to Network!

- Talk to others! Lidar contracting is expensive and the best way to start is by talking to others that have already done this
- MGISAC has a Lidar Stakeholders consortium, let us know your plans and we may be able to cost share or at least give some advice.

# How to start

- There are three primary resolutions of Lidar being contracted for in Missouri.
- Lower resolution -2 meter ground sample distance (GSD) equivalent of four foot contours.
- Standard - 1meter GSD product, a two foot contour model
- High - .5-.7 meter GSD product, used for geologic mapping and engineering, one foot contours

# Specifications

- USGS draft Lidar Guidelines and Base Specifications, V 13 is the base specification defining minimum parameters.
- Used by most if not all federal agencies.
- A USGS partnership requires use of V-13, as well as hydro flattening. Hydro flattening allows for an esthetic digital elevation model

# Federal Contracts

- Two federal contracting services using qualifications based selection. Firms that are awarded your contract are pre-qualified by a rigorous selection process.
- USGS Geospatial Products and Service Contract (GPSC)
- USACE-St Louis Technical Center of Expertise for Photogrammetric Mapping

# Advantages to federal contracts

- Contractors are selected through a competitive, quality-based selection process
- They are industry leaders with product-specific expertise.
- Selection and administration of the contract is done for you by experts
- You get what you ask for

# Disadvantages

- Selection has been done for you, although the USACE contract does allow you to choose from their list.
- You pay for this service.
- Cost is typically higher than through a RFP.

# Request for Proposals

- This process requires you and your contract person to work closely together.
- As mentioned earlier, talk to others that have done this. There are examples you can use
- Takes time, RFP has to be written and posted, responses evaluated and a contract written



# Advantages / Disadvantages

- You can save considerable money
- You can get burned, especially if you weigh cost too highly.
- You get complete freedom to choose your vendor.
- You will spend a lot of time on the process

# Additional Information

- URISA's Nov/Dec issue of *The GIS Professional* has an article on Qualifications Based vs Value Added RFP's
- They also have a publication "GIS Procurement and RFP Development"
  - [www.urisa.org](http://www.urisa.org) , Publications and Resources, More Publications Resources
  - \$20.00

# Questions

Ray Fox

USGS Geospatial Liaison to Missouri

573-308-3744

[rfox@usgs.gov](mailto:rfox@usgs.gov)