1. Regarding length of the engagement.

    a. Page 1, section I Introduction, section C Scope of Procurement indicates:

    "THE TERM or length of the engagement will be approximately one (1) year."

    b. Page 24, section IV Specifications, section A Detailed scope of work indicates a different length of term:

    "THE TERM or length of the engagement will be approximately four (4) to eight (8) weeks."

    c. Can you please either confirm which length of time, or explain the difference?

    Answer: The length of the engagement is approximately one (1) year. An addendum will be issued to address the correction.

2. Regarding Detailed Scope of Work:

    a. Page 1, section I Introduction, section C Scope of Procurement (and repeated on page 24 section IV Specifications, section A Detailed scope of work)

    b. In the second narrative paragraph the description refers to:

        i. "The assessment requires the firms capability to administer an eternal network scan of member systems…"

    c. This is followed later in the paragraph by:

        i. "The security assessment must include an evaluation of members' IT infrastructure to identify and quantify potential network vulnerabilities involving, but not limited to, configurations of email security, detection of malware actions, patching cadence, back up, certificates, domains, out of date services and other critical risk vectors"

        ii. The items in ci are normally part of an internal security assessment

    d. Is the intent of the RFP to provide:

        i. External assessment, to include vulnerability scanning and vulnerability assessment of the external facing services ONLY, including ci if exposed?

        OR

        Answer: That is correct. The external assessment must be comprised of using externally observable data – publicly available metrics for the evaluation. The

criteria listed in "c.i"- Detailed Scope of Work"- must too be property evaluated if exposed.

3. Page 26 Scope of Work, Exhibit A, Members…

    a. Effort and corresponding fees are highly dependent on size and complexity of the assessed entity, including numbers and type of systems.

        i. Can NMPSIA provide the number of external IP addresses for each of the members external assessments?

        Answer: NMPSIA will provide the external IP address of its Members for the awarded vendor to access.

        ii. If assessment of internal systems in in-scope/required (see question 2d above), can NMPSIA provide the approximate number of internal network attached systems for each of the members internal assessments?

        iii. If no, will a proposal with estimated efforts and fees, to be refined and finalized as a result of scope confirmation for each member be acceptable?

        Answer: NMPSIA cannot provide the approximate number of internal network attached systems for each member's internal assessments. A proposal with efforts and fees to be refined and finalized as a result of the scope confirmation for each member is acceptable; however, bidders shall provide the most competitive financial offer.

4. Page 2 section I Introduction, section C Scope of Procurement (and repeated on page 24 section IV Specifications, section A Detailed scope of work) – regarding the third bullet item

    a. "The software program should serve both the monitoring and administration function of its members"

        i. What specifically is the term "monitored" referring to?

            1. Project status?

            2. Status of reports?

            3. If anything else beyond 1 and 2 above please describe and provide context.

            Answer: The "monitoring" function does include both the project status and the status of assessment reports themselves. Monitoring is also attributed to the vendors capability to offer a web-based platform where Members can access information to emerging or potential cyber risks, including various alerts or notification

    ii. What specifically is the term "administration" referring to?

        1. Project status?

        2. Status of reports?

        3. If anything else beyond 1 and 2 above please describe and provide context.

        Answer: The "Administration' function includes Members access to assessment reports and status updates to projects.

5. Page 2 section I Introduction, section C Scope of Procurement (and repeated on page 24 section IV Specifications, section A Detailed scope of work) – regarding the fourth bullet item

    a. Review each member's current procedures and practices versus acknowledged best practices and make and implement recommendations or remediation strategies to enhance member's cybersecurity program.

    b. For the "current procedures and practices" statement,

        i. Is the intent to review and assess each members entire information security program?

        OR

        ii. Only the elements that are directly related to Internet facing systems

        Answer: The "current procedures and practices" statement only pertains to Internet facing systems.

    c. For the "…and implement recommendations or remediation strategies…" statement

        i. Is the intent to have the selected consultant ALSO provide/execute remediation assistance?

        1. For example: the consultant will make configuration changes, create, edit/update policies or procedures, etc…?

        Answer: The intent and context of the requirement is for the awarded vendor to provide *guidance* related to key recommendations or remediating strategies for Members to implement.

6. Page 2 section I Introduction, section C Scope of Procurement (and repeated on page 24 section IV Specifications, section A Detailed scope of work) – regarding the fifth bullet item

    a. What is the intent of: "Provide network monitoring and technical support services on the use of any software"

        i. Is this referring to the "software program" and/or "dashboard" referenced in bullet #3?

        OR

        ii. Is there some other software you expect the consultant to monitor and support?

            1. If yes, please describe, provide context, and some examples.

Answer: Correct. The network monitoring and technical support services are directly related to the vendors software and/or dashboard program. There is no other program outside of the vendors software program that is required to be managed or supported.

b. What is the intent of: "…be available between 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM MST for assistance to member representatives to include, but not limited to, exchange and retrieval of network data, interpreting assessment results and analytics, guidance for remediation practices and software support."

    i. What network data would need to be exchanged or retrieved?

        1. Is this referring to the reports created as part of the assessment?

        OR

        2. Is it expected that the consultant will actually be performing (daily?) network performance, traffic, and/or log monitoring?

        Answer: The network data is referring to the reports created as part of the assessment.

    ii. What is intended by "guidance for remediation practices"

        1. Written recommendations for remediation withing assessment reports as a result of the assessments?

        2. Walk through of report recommendations upon completion/delivery?

        3. Ongoing consulting assistance related to remediation recommendations?

        4. All of the above?

        Answer: All of the above

iii. What software is being referred to in "…and software support?"

Answer: "…software support" is referring to the software program and/or dashboard platform itself provided by the vendor for the Members use.

7. How many total IP's are included in the external vulnerability scan?

Answer: It is not known how many IP's are included in the external vulnerability scan.

8. For network monitoring, would this include internal endpoints? And if so, how many of each:
   a. desktops/laptops
   b. servers
   c. firewalls
   d. printers
   e. networking devices (routers, switches, etc)
   f. is the vpn associated with the firewall, or is it a separate vpn client?

Answer: No. Network monitoring does not include internal endpoints but rather web application security and configurations that better address endpoint management.

9. Is there any budget allocated for this contract? If yes, can you please let us know the same?

Answer: Bidders shall provide the most competitive financial offer.

10. Is Subcontracting allowed for this opportunity, if so, are there any specific participation goals to be met?

Answer: Subcontractors are permitted. See section RFP section, C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, 4. Subcontractors/Consent and B. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS, 1. Organizational Experience.

11. Is there an incumbent on the contract? If yes, could you please let us know the incumbent name and spending done on contract so far?

Answer: Currently, there is no incumbent on the contract.

12. What is the total number of resources who are currently working on this project? Please let us know their position name and hourly rate?

Answer: Same as above. There is no vendor providing services under contact at the time.

13. Considering the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, if the proposed candidates are not available at the time of award, will the agency allow us to provide replacement personnel with similar or more skill sets?

Answer: Yes. Alternative staff or replacement personnel is permitted with similar or further skill sets as required to perform the Scope of Work under this contract.

14. Is there any limitation on providing resumes of the personnel, i.e., if the requirement is for two candidates; do we need to submit only two resumes or can we propose resumes of more than two candidates for agency's consideration?

Answer: There is no limitation to the number of resumes to be provided for consideration. Additional resumes of key staffs' experience related to performing the Scope of Work are accepted.

15. Are hourly rate ranges acceptable for proposed personnel including key?

Answer: Hourly rate ranges are acceptable.

16. Is it entirely onsite work or can it be done remotely to some extent / Does the services need to be delivered onsite or is there a possibility for remote operations and performance.

Answer: This is dependent on the bidder's ability to perform the scope of work.