

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH (NIMH)

AMENDMENT & Q&A LOG

Solicitation Number: RFP-2026-NIH-7TMR
Project Title: Acquisition of 7T Ultra-High Field MRI System & Subsystems
Amendment Number: 0001
Release Date: September 10, 2026

Item 1: Technical & Contractual Clarification

Question: The solicitation states that FAR 52.212-3 and FAR 52.212-5 have been eliminated and replaced by individually incorporated provisions and clauses. Can the Government confirm that all clauses normally required under FAR 52.212-5 have been incorporated and identify where offerors may find the complete list of applicable FAR clauses?

Government Response: Refer to Amendment 0001. The Government has modified Section I.1 to formally incorporate FAR 52.212-5 by reference, ensuring all mandatory commercial product and service statutes are legally preserved. The specific statutory sub-clauses applicable to this procurement (including equal opportunity, subcontracting enforcement, and supply chain cybersecurity) have been explicitly checked within that framework. The complete framework consists of the standalone provisions in Sections I and L, governed by the reinstated FAR 52.212-5 block. FAR 52.212-3 (Offeror Representations and Certifications) remains replaced by active, electronic vendor records maintained within SAM.gov under standard commercial streamlining procedures.

Item 2: Technical & Contractual Clarification

Question: The solicitation incorporates FAR 52.236-2, Differing Site Conditions, while also stating that the contractor assumes responsibility for site conditions and that NIH will not fund post-award adjustments arising from physical site complexities or logistical constraints. Offeror requests clarification regarding whether the Government intends the solicitation language to modify or limit the contractor's rights and remedies otherwise available under FAR 52.236-2.

Government Response: The incorporation of FAR 52.236-2 (Differing Site Conditions) stands as written and is not eliminated. However, pursuant to FAR 52.236-3 (Site Investigation and Conditions Affecting the Work) and Section 8 of this solicitation, the contractor bears full baseline responsibility for all reasonably discoverable, surface-level physical constraints and transport pathways verified during the mandatory September 3, 2026 site visit. FAR 52.236-2 equitable adjustments remain active, but are strictly limited to latent or subsurface physical conditions at the site that differ materially from those indicated in the contract or those ordinarily encountered.

Item 3: Technical & Contractual Clarification

Question: Offeror requests clarification regarding the requirement to submit the FAR 52.222-48 certification. Given the incorporation of FAR 52.222-51, can the Government confirm that it has determined the services under this procurement qualify for an exemption from Service Contract Labor Standards requirements?

Government Response: Yes. As formalized by checking FAR 52.222-51 within the reinstated FAR 52.212-5 clause block, the Government has formally determined that the specialized installation, calibration, and lifecycle services required for this 7T system meet the commerciality criteria defined in FAR 22.1003-4(c). Therefore, the services qualify for an exemption from SCLS requirements. Offerors are required to execute and return the certification at FAR 52.222-48 alongside Volume III to finalize this exemption for the award.

Item 4: Technical & Contractual Clarification

Question: Can the Government confirm whether HHSAR/VAAR Section 508 requirements are applicable to the imaging equipment being acquired? If the requirement is applicable, please identify which system components are expected to be evaluated for compliance.

Government Response: Department of Veterans Affairs regulations (VAAR) are not applicable to this National Institutes of Health (NIH) procurement. HHSAR 352.239-74 accessibility requirements are strictly applicable to all Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) software and digital interfaces integrated into the system. Compliance evaluation via the mandatory Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR/VPAT) must focus on user-facing digital assets. This includes the host workstation software, protocol planning interfaces, image viewing tools, console operating systems, and any software application environments utilized by NIH staff. Purely mechanical, physical hardware elements are exempt from this evaluation.

Question: CRAC Unit Replacement

Please confirm whether the existing CRAC unit located in Equipment Room B1D708B is to be replaced to accommodate both the new 7T MRI equipment cabinets and the existing data cabinets, which are estimated to require an additional 12-15 kW of cooling.

Government Response: Yes

Question: Electrical Service and Power Conditioning

Please confirm whether the new 7T system's primary 480V electrical feed is to be relocated from B1D46 (Vault) to B1D732, and whether a new power conditioner is required as part of the project scope.

Government Response: Yes, more specifically, the new 7T system's main 480V feed is to be moved from B1D46 (Vault) to B1D732 and a new power conditioner is to be provided".

Here's what we need to happen:

The power from the existing system comes from an electrical vault in Room 10-B1D46.

The power for the new system must be sourced from another electrical vault in Room 10-B1D732. In this room, we would need a new power conditioner installed to support this system, as part of the electrical work for this project.

Question: Casework Requirements

Please confirm that no new casework is required for this project and that all existing casework is to remain in place and be protected throughout construction activities.

Note: Casework refers to cabinetry in the magnet and control rooms

Government Response: Yes

Question: Chilled Water Capacity

Please confirm that the existing chilled water supply is capable of providing the required 30-35 GPM flow range for the new 7T MRI system.

Government Response: Based on the drawings we are looking at from the current space, the existing chilled water supply flow rate is spec'ed for minimum 26.4 gpm to 31.7 gpm.