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Secret Service issues security RFP for NATO summit

By Paul Merrion April 13, 2012

(Crain's) — The U.S. Secret Service plans to hire one firm to outsource all of the physical requirements of providing security at the NATO summit in Chicago next month, including more than three miles of concrete barriers, up to 25,000 feet of 8-foot-high "anti-scale" steel fencing, plus everything from vehicle crash barriers and light towers to portable toilets and sand bags.

With the massive event just six weeks away, the Secret Service issued an extensive request for proposals April 10 and bids are due April 24.

The last-minute, short-response time frame for bids suggests the Secret Service is scrambling to get ready, or it has a contractor or two in mind but must go through the formality of putting the work out for bid. Only four firms have expressed interest in the fixed-price contract so far, according to the [RFP posted on fedbizopps.gov](#), the federal government's contracting website.

"It is imperative that the vendor have the required program management experience and resource capacity to successfully coordinate and provide the requisite event support resources including the ability to act as the single 'Facilitator' of the event, provide 'hands-on' program management for material such as: temporary fencing, concrete barriers, tents, bike rack, comfort trailers, supplemental outdoor lighting, portable generators, portable air conditioners, auxiliary lighting and electrical circuits, golf carts, fueling support, sand bags, porta-potties and services and all the required licenses and local permits in support of the NATO summits (sic), in Chicago, IL," according to the RFP's statement of work.

In addition, the RFP requires all personnel provided to do the work to be U.S. citizens and undergo a security background check by the U.S. Secret Service.

A spokesman for the Secret Service declined comment. A Chicago police department spokeswoman said she was not aware of the RFP and referred questions to the Secret Service. The RFP was first reported by New York-based Government Security News.