the performance of work under this agreement. Further, it is agreed that any negligence or alleged negligence of the Government, its officers, agents, servants, and employees, shall not be a bar to a claim for indemnification unless the act or omission of the Government, its officers, agents, servants, and employees is the sole, competent, and producing cause of such claims, loss, damage, injury, and liability. At the option of the contractor, and subject to the approval by the contracting officer of the sources, insurance coverage may be employed as guaranty of indemnification.

(b) Insurance. Satisfactory insurance coverage is a condition precedent to award of a contract. In general, a successful bidder must present satisfactory evidence of full compliance with State and local requirements, or those below stipulated, whichever are the greater. More specifically, workers' compensation and employer's liability coverage will conform to applicable State law requirements for the service contemplated, whereas general liability and automobile liability of comprehensive type shall, in the absence of higher statutory minimums, be required in the amounts per vehicle used of not less than $200,000 per person and $500,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and $20,000 per occurrence for property damage. State-approved sources of insurance coverage ordinarily will be deemed acceptable to the Department of Veterans Affairs installation, subject to timely certifications by such sources of the types and limits of the coverages afforded by the sources to the bidder. [Contracting Officer's Note: In those instances where airplane service is to be used, substitute the word 'aircraft' for 'automobile' and 'vehicle' and modify coverage to require aircraft public and passenger liability insurance of at least $200,000 per passenger and $500,000 per occurrence for bodily injury, other than passenger liability, and $200,000 per occurrence for property damage. Coverage for passenger liability bodily injury shall be at least $200,000 multiplied by the number of seats or passengers, whichever is greater.]

(End of clause)

852.228–72 Assisting service-disabled veteran-owned and veteran-owned small businesses in obtaining bonds.

As prescribed in 828.106–71, insert the following clause:

ASSISTING SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES AND VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES IN OBTAINING BONDS

(DEC2009)

Prime contractors are encouraged to assist service-disabled veteran-owned and veteran-owned small business potential subcontractors in obtaining bonding, when required. Mentor firms are encouraged to assist protege firms under VA's Mentor-Protege Program in obtaining acceptable bid, payment, and performance bonds, when required, as a prime contractor under a solicitation or contract and in obtaining any required bonds under subcontracts.

(74 FR 66638, Dec. 8, 2009)

§ 852.229–70 Sales or use taxes.

As prescribed in 829.302–70, insert the following provision:

SALES OR USE TAXES (JAN 2008)

This provision replaces paragraph (k) of Federal Acquisition Regulation clause 52.212–4, Contract Terms and Conditions—Commercial Items. The articles listed in this solicitation will be purchased from the personal funds of patients and prices submitted herein include any sales or use tax heretofore imposed by any State, or by any duly constituted taxing authority therein, having jurisdiction to levy such a tax, applicable to the material in this solicitation.

(End of clause)

§ 852.229–71 [Reserved]

§ 852.233–70 Protest content/alternative dispute resolution.

As prescribed in 833.106, insert the following provision:

PROTEST CONTENT/ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (JAN 2008)

(a) Any protest filed by an interested party shall:

(1) Include the name, address, fax number, and telephone number of the protester;

(2) Identify the solicitation and/or contract number;

(3) Include an original signed by the protestor or the protestor's representative and at least one copy;

(4) Set forth a detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest, including a description of resulting prejudice to the protestor, and provide copies of relevant documents;

(5) Specifically request a ruling of the individual upon whom the protest is served;

(6) State the form of relief requested; and