

Q&A for CRC RFP No. CM-137-11-1, "Octane Benefits on Gasoline Engine Efficiency"
May 16, 2011

Q1. Our preliminary survey of published literature on this topic suggests that there are relatively few recent papers in this area, but the RFP states that direct inputs from auto manufacturers are to be limited. Would CRC allow the selected contractor to interview leading fuel system suppliers and engine research firms as an alternative if the publications are limited?

A1. The intent of "direct inputs from auto manufacturers are to be limited..." is merely to avoid tasking the auto manufacturers with the completion of research...if, however, auto manufacturers wish to provide additional insight then that will be the call on the part of that particular auto manufacturer. The contractor should understand that the collection of such information falls upon the contractor. The contractor should use whatever means available to collect any and all kinds of information that is relevant, which can include interviewing top researchers that will endorse what is being claimed/included as well as any other information that can be obtained. We want the contractor to be creative, innovative and bring to the study a complete portrait of the octane and engine efficiency relationship.

Q2. What is the likely start date of the contract? If the date is in the late-July/ early August time frame, would the committee allow a 2 week extension (for the summer holiday season) to the very tight schedule?

A2. CRC intends to start the project in late June to early July. A later start may need to be translated into additional effort by the contractor. A request for a 2 week extension may be acceptable, but the proposal must be realistically presented and avoid any repeated extensions. The intention is to negotiate a realistic contract schedule with a specific deadline for completion and avoid the possibility that a prospective contractor considers this project as anything less or as a way to "fill a gap" in their portfolio. The contract completion time should be firm and if that requires additional personnel then that needs to be part of the contract proposal.