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Federal AI Hardware RFP Checklist

A working checklist for building AI and HPC hardware requirements into your next RFP

Workload Requirements

- ☐ Workload category defined (inference, fine-tuning, training, or scientific simulation)
- ☐ Minimum GPU memory (VRAM) requirement specified based on model size
- ☐ GPU interconnect requirement identified (standard PCIe vs. HGX/SXM) based on GPU-to-GPU synchronization needs
- ☐ Storage throughput and capacity requirements defined for the specific workload
- ☐ Scalability horizon specified (3-5 year growth expectations)

Compliance and Supply Chain

- ☐ TAA compliance documentation required from all bidders (Manufacturer's Certificate of Compliance)
- ☐ Country of origin documentation required for major components, not just final assembly location
- ☐ Contract vehicle confirmed (GSA Schedule, NASA SEWP V, ITES-4H, ADMC 3, 2GIT) and eligibility verified

Security Requirements

- ☐ Hardware-level security capabilities specified (TPM support, secure boot, firmware integrity verification)
- ☐ Zero Trust Architecture alignment confirmed with OMB M-22-09 requirements
- ☐ NIST SP 800-223 / SP 800-234 alignment addressed for HPC environments, where applicable
- ☐ RMF control implementation documentation requested from bidders

Sustainability

- ☐ EPEAT registration required, with tier specified (Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Climate+)
- ☐ ENERGY STAR certification required for applicable hardware categories

Cost and Lifecycle

- ☐ Total cost of ownership requested from bidders, not purchase price alone
- ☐ Power and cooling requirements assessed against facility capacity before finalizing configuration
- ☐ Maintenance and support terms specified and compared across bidders
- ☐ Factory acceptance testing or configuration validation required before delivery

Vendor Evaluation

- ☐ Workload assessment methodology requested from bidders, not just a hardware spec sheet
- ☐ Manufacturing facility and quality certificatio
n documentation requested (e.g., ISO 9001)
- ☐ References or past performance on comparable federal contracts requested

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