

Pete Ricketts, Governor

ADDENDUM ONE QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Date: September 16, 2016

To: All Bidders

From: Nancy Storant/Jennifer Crouse, Buyers
AS Materiel State Purchasing Bureau

RE: Addendum for Request for Proposal Number 5401 Z1
to be opened October 5, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. Central Time

Questions and Answers

Following are the questions submitted and answers provided for the above mentioned Request for Proposal. The questions and answers are to be considered as part of the Request for Proposal. It is the Bidder's responsibility to check the State Purchasing Bureau website for all addenda or amendments.

<u>Question Number</u>	<u>RFP Section Reference</u>	<u>RFP Page Number</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>State Response</u>
1.	V - A3c	39	It says to provide user documentation and technical manuals in softcopy format but the bid states everything needs to be mailed and "no electronic, email, fax, voice or telephone proposals will be accepted". Please clarify.	Documentation and Technical manuals need to be provided in hardcopy.
2.	V - A3d	39	You ask for copies of applicable hardware and software maintenance contracts but it also seems like you state that we can't change any of the terms and conditions. Please clarify.	A bidder may indicate any exceptions to the Terms and Conditions by (1) clearly identifying the term or condition by subsection, and (2) including an explanation for the bidder's inability to comply with such term or condition which includes a statement recommending terms and conditions the bidder would find acceptable.

3.	Attachment D		In Attachment D, Cost Proposal, you request hardware and software Maintenance and Support costs for each of year 1, year 2, year 3, year 4 and year 5. Is it the State's plan to order only the first year's support upfront and then order support annually each year thereafter? Or would the state consider ordering multiple years of support (2, 3, 4 or 5 years) upfront if there were cost advantages to the State for doing so?	No. The state requires that the initial contract period, years one (1) through five (5). be bid as noted on Attachment D, Cost Proposal. The maintenance would then be paid on a yearly basis. The State will not pay for additional years in year one (1).
4.	Attachment D		Is this RFP "standalone" for the mainframe virtual tape requirement as defined or is it possible to financially bundle this proposal with other opportunities at the State of Nebraska?	This solicitation is limited to scope as defined in Section IV.D, it is not bundled with any other opportunities.
5.	Schedule of Events	1	Does notification need to be provided to the State of Nebraska if we are going to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference on 8/25?	No notification is required.
6.	TH-10 (IV.E.2.j.)	6	Can both VTL's at each location be in the same rack assuming that the rack has redundant power feeds?	Separate racks are required for physical separation.
7.	TH-10 (IV.E.2.j.)	6	The stated requirement that upgrades or maintenance be handled in a non-disruptive mean that: a) each VTL be capable of non disruptive upgrades or repair or b) the combination of both VTL's at each location be upgradable or repaired non disruptively?	The requirement is that there be 100% availability of data during maintenance or repair events.
8.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	Are there any spare channels available on the TS3500 if so, what type of channels are they?	No spare channels are available.
9.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	What is the typical retention time on both the current virtual and Physical tape?	Data retention times vary from a few days to multiple years depending on operational and legal requirements for the data in question.
10.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	What is the maximum retention time on the existing tapes?	Maximum retention time is permanent.
11.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	What Tape copy programs are currently available on the mainframe?	IEBGENER and other DFSMS utilities.

12.	RFP Section II,	Page 3	Which department areas will be represented at the Pre-Proposal Conference in Lincoln and also in Omaha?	z/OS Systems Staff and Management responsible for the tape environment for the State of Nebraska.
13.	RFP Section IV, A	Page 29	What is your timing for moving the mainframe to the second data center?	No timeframe has been established
14.	RFP Section IV, A	Page 29	Is your current Tape Batch workload experiencing any performance issues?	No
15.	RFP Section IV, B	Page 29	While you have asked for uncompressed virtual tape capacity, what kind of compression ratios are you seeing today with current technology?	Current compression ratios are estimated at from 2.2 to 1, to 3 to 1, depending on the data.
16.	RFP Section IV, B	Page 29	Are you running a Parallel Sysplex today in the Local data center	The State is currently running multiple sysplex environments with independent tape management for each sysplex
17.	RFP Section IV, B	Page 29	Please share a diagram of your current infrastructure, the local site with inter-component connections, the remote site with inter-component connections, and noting all the inter-site connections.	No diagram is available.
18.	RFP Section IV, B	Page 29	Does the local VTL replicate to the remote VTL? If so, what is the process and what connections are used?	The State of Nebraska does not currently have a remote VTL.
19.	RFP Section IV, B	Page 30	Do the VDR backups referenced use Rocket Software's VDR product or something else? Are there any virtual tape products used at the remote site?	Rocket's VDR product is currently used. There are no virtual tape products used at the remote site.
20.	RFP Section IV, B	Page 30	Do all full backups need to be migrated to the new virtual tape platform or can we create new backups and let them roll off gracefully? What is your retention period on these backups?	Full backups (VDR & DASD backup) do not need to be migrated. The retention period currently is 11 days for DASD backups.

				VDR Backups are retained as long as the original or source data is retained.
21.	RFP Section IV, B	Page 30	You mention that the DASD is mirrored between sites, is that done at the mainframe layer with dual writes, or does the DASD itself do box to box replication between sites over FC?	DASD data replication is done with global mirror over fiber channels; no processor interaction.
22.	RFP Section IV, B	Page 30	Do you have any FICON directors at either site? If so, please provide detail on the directors.	No FICON directors are currently installed. If your solution requires FICON directors they must be included as part of the proposal, including cost.
23.	RFP Section IV, B	Page 30	Do you have any mainframes at the remote site? If so, are they powered off or is there an active mainframe running one or more LPARs on it? If no mainframe at the remote site, what DR process are you using to support full COOP processing?	At this time, no mainframe is installed at that site. A z13 processor is scheduled to be installed at the remote site. That installation date is independent of the install of the VTL solution. The State has no process at the remote site.
24.	RFP Section IV, E, q	Page 32	How do you do chargebacks today?	Current tape data chargeback is based on data size and retention period. The chargeback process for tape in the new hardware tape environment will be reevaluated after completion of the migration process.
25.	Attachment B, Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM), TS-2	page 9	There are some differences in expected onsite days listed in TS-2 and listed in the RFP Section IV, E, 3c, page 33. One says 8 days and one says 14 days. Can you please clarify what are the expected onsite days?	Attachment B, TS-2., first paragraph is hereby amended to read "Onsite support must be made available throughout the installation, acceptance period, and the fourteen (14) days after all data is migrated to new VTL in the production environment.
26.	Attachment B, Requirement Traceability matrix, TH-8 (IV.e.2.h)	5	Is there a preference to Two dual port 1 GbE SW adapters (these use multi-mode SW fiber cable) or Two dual port 10 GbE LW adapters (these use single mode LW fiber cable)?	The State has no preference.

27.			<p>██████████ would like to know if the State of Nebraska would consider a solution proposal that did not meet this requirement: vi. Use the IBM DFSMS product suite.</p>	No. The use of DFSMS is a mandatory requirement.
28.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	Is there a requirement to migrate the data contained on the Logical volumes belonging to the TS7740?	Yes, all existing tape data must be migrated to the new hardware environment.
29.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	Are There Tape Copy programs onsite? Innovation, Open Tech, etc.	See answer to question #11.
30.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	What if any data retention cycles are used?	See answer to question #9.
31.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	How is expired data managed?	Expired data on tape volumes is currently retained until volume reuse – specific client requirements may require delete upon expiration.
32.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	Is it acceptable to use mainframe cycles for migration purposes? IEBGENER, Tape Copy, etc.	Yes. Mainframe cycles may be used for data migration only if the production workload is not adversely impacted. CPU use must be approved by z/OS Systems staff.
33.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	How critical of a factor is it to continue using DF/SMS for Tape allocations?	The use of DFSMS is a mandatory requirement.
34.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	How critical of a factor is it to continue using DF/HSM ML2 operations?	The State will continue to use DF/HSM ML2 operations.
35.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	Approximately how many Tape backup jobs are run? Job Steps?	One job is run daily to produce a backup of any data in the VTS that does not have a backup using Rocket's VDR (Virtual Data Recovery). This job runs 8 to 12 hours and will become obsolete with the implementation of the new tape solution. DASD dump to tape is not currently being run but will be considered again with the new tape solution. Application Development staff create selective client backups as needed.

36.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	Are any ESOTERICS currently being used for Tape allocations?	Yes.
37.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	Approximately how long is the daily/weekly backup window?	Please see response to question #35.
38.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	Are there any SLA's in place regarding the restoration of Tape data?	No SLAs are currently in place.
39.	TM-2 (IV.E.1.c.)	2	If so, what is the RTO/RPO for data residing on Tape?	There is no current RTO/RPO established.
40.	Section II, Para. N	5	Section II, Item N refers to the Completion of Attachment C as a mandatory proposal submission requirement for the Cost Proposal. Attachment C in the RFP package is the Non-Disclosure. Is there another attachment specific to the cost proposal?	Section II.N.5 is hereby amended to "Cost Proposal (completed Attachment D).
41.	Section IV, Para. I	36	Section IV, Item I, DELIVERABLES (required) references a cost sheet. Can you please provide?	Please see response to question #40.
42.	Section IV, Para. C	30	Section IV Item C describes a change promotion process from Monoplex (SY) progressing through to the Production Parallel Sysplex (PR). Are there any mandatory staging delays associated with the promotion from one environment to the next?	What is referenced is the software maintenance and update release process. Delays are not mandatory during release migrations. On average, 1 week from SY to QA, 1 week from QA to DV and 2 to 4 weeks from DV to PR. Actual times are subject to test results at each level. The tape implementation is independent of this process unless your solution requires a software installation.
43.	Section IV, Para. C	30	Section IV Item C describes a change promotion process from Monoplex (SY) progressing through to the Production Parallel Sysplex (PR). What is the shortest period of time that	See answer to question #42.

			a change can be propagated from the Monoplex environment to the Production Parallel Sysplex (PR)?	
44.	Section IV, Para. C	30	Section IV Item C describes a change promotion process from Monoplex (SY) progressing through to the Production Parallel Sysplex (PR). Are there pre-established change windows for each of the environments or are they scheduled on an ad-hoc basis? If the latter what is the minimum lead time to schedule change promotion?	See answer to question #42.
45.	Section IV, Para. E.1.c	31	Section IV Item E Number 1.c outlines the data migration requirement. Are there any restrictions to the time periods when tape migration activity can occur?	The non-disruptive migration of tape data may be accomplished at any time as long as the production workload is not adversely impacted. The scheduling of tape migration activities must be approved by z/OS Systems staff.
46.	Section IV, Para. E.1.c	31	Section IV Item E Number 1.c outlines the data migration requirement. Any restrictions as to the number of tape transports (physical or virtual) that can be utilized for data migration activities at any times?	One to four native tape drives (3592-E05) and an estimated maximum of fifty virtual tape drives would be available for migration activities. Migration activities must not impact the production workload environment.
47.	Section IV, Para. E.3.c	31	Section IV Item E Number 3.c identifies a requirement for on-site support for the production environment implementation and cutover. Is 'production environment' to be interpreted as solely the Production Parallel Sysplex (PR)?	The 'production environment' includes all parallel sysplex environments – not just the Production Parallel Sysplex. It is expected that the test environments will be migrated prior to production to validate the process.
48.	Section IV, Para. E.3.c	31	Section IV Item E Number 3.c identifies a requirement	See answer to question #47.

			<p>for on-site support for the production environment implementation and cutover.</p> <p>Does this requirement for on-site support apply to the installation of any other environments?</p>	Yes
49.	Section IV, Para. E.3.c	31	Section IV Item E Number 3.c identifies a requirement for on-site support for the production environment implementation and cutover. What metric (hours per day, hours per week, etc.) will be used to evaluate if on-site requirements have been met?	No metric as far as hours per day, hours per week, etc. will be established. On-site requirements will be met when the solution is successfully implemented as viewed by the State.
50.			After the Letter of Intent, is there an opportunity to review the Final BOM to make sure all FICON and IP cables, SW/LW connectors, power cord lengths, etc. are the right type and length for the given facility?	All costs for cables, connectors, and power cords must be included in submitted cost proposal.
51.			How is State of Nebraska currently managing their Backups operations, and from what site, local or remote is the data read and then written?	Backups are created daily and managed at the local site.
52.			Please give us the exact height of any doorways leading into the Data Center (s), it seems the effective door clearance may have been lowered by using security magnets on top at the secondary site.	<p>There are no clearance issues at the local site. The freight elevator measurements at the local site are Height 7' and 8'2" Wide. The freight elevator is accessed from the dock and opens to the 2nd floor data center</p> <p>Doorways at the remote site are 82" and magnets can be removed if necessary</p>
53.			TH-6. Can you confirm if the volser ranges for your different tape management systems have unique ranges	Yes. Unique ranges are used for virtual and native volumes.

54.			<p>MT-6. Please explain how you are using DFSMS today with your current Tape environment.</p>	<p>DFSMS manages all tape allocations as well as DASD allocations. Tape Libraries are defined in the SMS constructs. SMS directs allocations to NATIVE and VTS libraries currently and also filters on data set names for encryption. DFSMSrmm is the State's tape management system, and DFSMSHsm also aids with storage management.</p>
55.			<p>I have a question for you regarding Section V – Proposal Instructions, A – Proposal Submission, h. – Summary of Bidders Corporate Experience.</p> <p>As [REDACTED] respond to this section, we will be providing references to the State of Nebraska. However, a couple of the possible references are large, multi-national companies and we are not allowed to use their name in writing or in a public manner; i.e. given that the RFP responses will be put into the public domain, [REDACTED] need to be sensitive to the confidentiality requests of our customers.</p> <p>As such, is it possible that we not provide the customer name, contact info, etc in the general response but rather provide that under separate, confidential cover to the State of Nebraska at such time as the State wants to talk with those references? Again, we are very glad to provide the necessary information, we just can't do it in such a way that it is made available to the general</p>	<p>Refer to Section III.PP of the RFP which has the instructions on how to submit confidential and Proprietary information.</p>

			public. And given that we believe it would be valuable for the State to talk with these references to further confirm the merits of the [REDACTED] proposed solution, we are hopeful we can find a mutually acceptable solution.	
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The State will provide tersed RMM extended CDS extract files via FTP for the bidder to use along with the requirements in section IV.E.2 in their configuration design. In order to receive RMM Data, the bidder must request the data, complete, sign, and return the Non-Disclosure Agreement (Attachment C) and provide the State with an FTP site for transmission of the data.

This addendum will become part of the proposal and should be acknowledged with the Request for Proposal.