ADDENDUM SEVEN
QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Date: May 26, 2020

To: All Bidders

From: Connie Heinrichs/Nancy Storant, Buyers
AS Materiel State Purchasing Bureau

RE: Addendum for Request for Proposal Number 6249 Z1 to be opened June 15, 2020 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.

Question Number	RFP Section Reference	RFP Page Number	Question	State Response
1.	Technical Requirements Template DBM-7	Page 9	Do you have a database or other software that requires an ODBC type connection? Would the state accept, moving forward with a connection, using a RESTful API as an acceptable way to connect to a database?	The answer depends on the implementation timeline provided by the bidder. ACO requires an ODBC connection. ACO is being converted to iQIES, which will allow a RESTful connection. DHHS does not know the implementation timeline for iQIES, as it has been delayed by the COVID-19 emergency.
2.	Main RFP, Section V, Subsection A. 2 Solution Type	Page 30	Why no open-source software? If we can address those objections and show that an open-source solution is stable, secure, and much less expensive, would the state be open to an open-source solution?	DHHS will not accept open-source software. Bidders should describe how the technical solution proposed meets the requirements of the RFP.

3.	Main RFP, Section V, Subsection A. 2 Solution Type	Page 30	Is the State okay with multiple Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) systems that can be configured together with minimal customization to fulfill the State's requirements?	DHHS will accept third-party software in multiple COTS systems, as long as all related costs are included in the bid. All functionality, product support, and costs of third-party software are the responsibility of the bidder.
4.	Attachment 3 Technical Requirements Traceability	page 4 / TEC 15	Please confirm scope for help desk operations and support that will be provided with the system. Are you looking for both Application and call center support? If Call center, can you please provide call volume from the last couple of years?	DHHS is requesting a help desk for DHHS IT support staff to contact for issues. DHHS does not currently have call center support, and is not requiring that service. Refer to Section V.E.2.d.iii of the RFP.
5.	General Question		Can you please confirm the number of outputs (Reports, Notification, Alerts) we can consider for cost estimation?	DHHS does not have an estimated number of outputs. All currently-known outputs are described throughout Attachment 2, Business Requirement.
6.	RFP H. Submission of Proposals m. Proposal Opening	Page 4-5	This paragraph states that after award, proposals will be posted to the State Purchasing Bureau website but also goes on to say that, "Bidders may contact the State to schedule an appointment for viewing proposals after the Intent to Award has been posted." After award, will all proposals be posted to the State Purchasing Bureau's site for public viewing or would a Bidder need to request to view proposals of other Bidders?	All proposals will be posted to the State Purchasing Bureau's website following intent to award, excluding any proprietary information.
7.	RFP H. Submission of Proposals Z. Email Submissions	Page 8	Given that the State has allowed electronic submission for this response, will the State strike "electronic" from the following sentence, "SPB will not accept proposals by email, electronic, voice, or telephone except for one-time purchases under $50,000.00."?	Section I.Z. Email Submissions of the RFP is amended to read: SPB will not accept proposals by email, voice, or telephone except for one-time purchases under $50,000.00.
8.	Attachment 3	Page 20 / Data	What format is the microfilm,16mm or	Attachment 3, Technical Requirements, Item DAC-1

	Technical Requirements Traceability	Conversion Requirements	35mm ?	has been amended to remove outdated microfilm requirements. See Cost Proposal – Revision One for current microfilm needs. Bidding on microfilm digitalization is optional. 16mm
9.	Attachment 3 Technical Requirements Traceability	Page 20 / Data Conversion Requirements	Are there blips on the film. If so double and single?	DHHS is unsure, but there are probably single blips on the microfilm.
10.	Attachment 3 Technical Requirements Traceability	Page 20 / Data Conversion Requirements	Do images need to be broken into files or one big file for each roll?	Each document must be accessed separately, and must be searchable. See Cost Proposal – Revision One for current microfilm needs. Bidding on microfilm digitalization is optional.
11.	Attachment 3 Technical Requirements Traceability	Page 20 / Data Conversion Requirements	If index is required, what is the index needed, where can that info be located and how many images per digital file on average?	The film rolls are all labeled with their contents, and there are identifiers/ indexes within the records. The master microfilm index is currently a hard copy index. The index will be provided to the contractor, if the contractor's bid for microfilm digitalization is accepted. It is unknown how many images there are per digital file. Meeting minutes vary considerably according to the agenda and reference materials for each meeting.
12.	RFP G. Insurance Requirements	page 21	Is a certificate of insurance required with proposal submission?	A Certificate of Insurance (COI) is not required with the proposal. However, the awarded Contractor must submit to the State a COI that is compliant with the insurance requirements prior to execution of the contract.
13.	RFP Section II-IV	page 9 - 28	Will typed initials suffice to show acceptance or rejection of a term?	Yes.
14.	RFP Proposal	Page 46	This section of the RFP states, "State will	Bidder and subcontractor projects should be listed

	Submission h. Summary of Contractor's Corporate Experience		use no more than three (3) narrative project descriptions submitted by the bidder during its evaluation of the proposal" but goes on to say "Bidder and Subcontractor(s) experience should be listed separately". Does the 3 narrative project descriptions refer to both Bidder and Subcontractor projects collectively or should Bidder and each subcontractor provide 3 project descriptions?	collectively; however, within each narrative project description, bidders should list the work they performed and the work that subcontractors performed separately.
15.	General Question		From the last session of vendor questions and answers, we understand that there is no final list of the interfaces needed with the system. Can you please indicate how many interfaces we can assume, so we can scope and include cost for the same? If possible, please indicate how many one-way (only from the new solution to external system or external system to new solution, e.g., data to internal finance system, examination vendor system to new solution etc.) and how many two-way interfaces (Both ways from external system to new solution, e.g. ex Online Payment, Address verification) we should anticipate.	See Addendum Two, Questions and Answers, Question 3 response; and Attachment 2, Business Requirements.
16.	General Question		Can you please confirm the scope of post-Go Live support? 1. Do you need support only for application maintenance (like bug fixes and performance tuning)? 2. Do we need application support that provides support to DHSS end user staff? 3. Are you looking for full help desk support for both DHHS end users and citizens who are using this system? 4. For help desk, can you please provide	Bidders should describe how the technical solution proposed meets the requirements of the RFP. Refer to Section V, Project Description and Scope of Work E. Scope of Work 2. Project Phases c. Post-Implementation Support Phase and d. Operations & Maintenance Phase of RFP.

			timing? ex: 24hr 7 days or Mon - Fri 8-5 PM, etc.	
17.	RFP Section V.C Business Requirements / Cost Proposal	Page 32	Please clarify the potential conflict between the following content from the RFP: From RFP Section V.C Business Requirements pg 32: The system must comply with State and Federal requirements throughout the life of the contract. Changes in State and Federal requirements are included in the contract scope, and the State will not agree to any additional charges for minor changes (i.e. additional license types, adding a license requirement to an existing license type, etc.). From the Cost Proposal: Optional Services : Work may be needed that was not originally delineated in this RFP, but considered within the scope of work. This additional work may stem from legislative mandates, emerging technologies, and/or secondary research not otherwise addressed in this RFP or known at the time this RFP was issued. If additional work is needed, the Contractor must submit a detailed Scope of Work, Title/Role(s), number of hours, and due dates/deliverables for DHHS review and approval.	Minor changes will be included, (i.e. additional license types, adding a license requirement to an existing license type, etc.), and the system must comply with all State and Federal requirements for the duration of the contract period. If major programming was needed to tailor the functionality of the system to DHHS needs, those changes would be addressed as separate work under Optional Services. Please refer to Section II. G. Change Orders or Substitutions of the RFP.
18.			Has the Nebraska DAS participated in any potential vendor demonstrations in the past 12-24 months. If so were the demonstrations on site or remote? If so who were the vendors?	No. This question is outside the scope of the RFP.

19.				Has the Nebraska DAS received any pricing quotes or estimates for the new (LIS) system over the past 12-24 months?	No. This question is outside the scope of the RFP.
20.				What is the reason the Nebraska DAS is wanting to replace the existing licensing platform with System Automation?	The State is replacing L2K for greater efficiencies provided by features developed since L2K software was created.
21.				How long has the Nebraska DAS been on the System Automation platform?	Approximately 22 years.
22.				What was the original cost of the implementation and ongoing support costs associated with the System Automation platform?	System Automation implementation and support costs, 1997 through June 2019 = $3,149,117.
23.				Does the Nebraska DAS have a budget approved for this project and If so what is the budget?	DHHS does have established funding, but a budget has not been established at this time. DHHS does not have a specific funding cap or funding timeline for this project. Bids will be evaluated on their ability to address the needs of DHHS, the proposed implementation timeline, and the bidder's price for their system.
24.				What is the timeline that the Nebraska DAS has in mind for completion of this project?	Bidders should describe how the technical solution proposed meets all the requirements of the RFP, including the proposed timeline for implementation.
25.				In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and state mandated stay at home orders etc., would the Nebraska DAS consider extending the proposal closing date past June 1st 2020 as states began to reopen and employee's returning to the offices etc.?	See Addendum Six – Revised Schedule of Events.
26.				In the previous Q/A's that were submitted can the Nebraska DAS disclose which potential vendors submitted the questions?	No, the State will not disclose who submitted questions.
27.				Open Source. The RFP requires "The State	See responses to Questions 2 and 3.

			will not accept a system based on open-sourced software" but also asks for "a Web-based system". These seem to be at odds with each other as most web-based systems are at least partly covered by an open-source license. Can you help us understand: **Why you are not accepting open source software solutions?** a) **Would the State accept an open-source software solution based on so long as it met all the other criteria in this RFP?**	
28.			ODBC. The RFP requires the software to be directly connected to the back end database via ODBC. Why the need for such an old connection? Can your need be solved with a RESTful API? Likely the cost savings would be enough to simply redesign the database instead of requiring the 29.connection. **Would you consider a database redesign so that we can use RESTful API instead of requiring ODBC to connect to your old database?**	See response to Question 1.
29.			Hosting. The RFP requires the Contractor to host the hardware and software. The requirement is by far a less secure and more expensive option. **Why does the State require this approach? Would the State entertain a far less expensive and more secure option of cloud storage?**	Refer to Attachment 3, Technical Requirements, Tec-1. Any hardware or software that the Contractor needs to host, maintain, and secure the system is the Contractor's responsibility.
30.			Reporting. The RFP asks for the solution to have an integrated reporting function. Third-party reporting tools could be used to provide more reporting functionality for less	See responses to Questions 2 and 3.

			expense. Is this part of the open-source issue? This requirement adds major expense and functionality when off the shelf solutions exist for this reason. **Would the state allow a system that exported its data to a reporting system if we show that the export could remain secure?** This would provide a large cost savings and a better toolset for the state to understand their data. This would also allow you to combine the data in this database with other data from other databases to make better reports and even data-driven decisions.	
31.			Integration. Requiring the scheduling in the application instead of a 3rd party dedicated scheduling application will slow down the application greatly and costs a large number of contractual hours. **Would you entertain the idea of moving the automated daily data exchanges to a dedicated 3rd party software to speed up the application if the transfer could stay secure?**	See responses to Questions 2 and 3.
32.			Workflow. Similar to Integration. Requiring workflow inside the application adds cost and reduces speed. The better way is to have a tool that integrates with off-the-shelf workflow systems. **Would the State entertain the idea of having a workflow tool if the transfer of data can be shown to be secure?**	See responses to Questions 2 and 3.
33.	Addendum Four – Activity 2: Due Date for second round of questions	Addendum Four page 1	Activity 2 of Addendum Four states the State will respond to the second round of questions by May 13. As this date has passed, when does the State anticipate releasing answers to the second round of	See Addendum Six – Revised Schedule of Events.

			questions? Many aspects of our response are dependent upon answers to questions and we want to ensure we have enough time to incorporate any needed changes into our response.	
34.			Addendum #5 has the second round of Q & A with TBD on the date. Do you have any anticipated date for Addendum #6 to be published? Does this also mean the due date for the RFP will be moved past 6/1/2020?	See Addendum Six – Revised Schedule of Events.
35.			This email is to formally request an extension of 2 weeks for the due date of RFP 6249 Z1. "Vendor" in partnership with "Vendor" is looking forward to responding to RFP 6249 Z1 Licensure Information System. We look forward to hearing back from you regarding the extension request.	See Addendum Six – Revised Schedule of Events.

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