RFP # R00R1600673 – Web data Collection System

Vendor Questions and Answers

1. Incumbent Questions:

- 1) If there is an incumbent, are they permitted to submit a proposal for this TORFP? Yes. Is the incumbent currently providing the services under the scope? If yes, who is the incumbent and are they eligible to re-bid? Gantech
- 2) Are you happy and satisfied with their performance? **Yes.** How happy and satisfied are you with them in scale of 1 to 10? **This is not a question we can respond to** Is the incumbent eligible to respond to this solicitation? **Yes**
- 3) Is this a NEW project? No. And if not, what was/is the preceding TORFP and what are the initial TORFP award and the current year-to-date amounts paid to the incumbent? MSDE awarded CATS + TORFP #R00B4400087 to Gantech Inc. in Sept of 2014. The contract amount was 5,975,799.00
- 4) Is the current incumbent an SBR firm? No
- 5) What is the name of the incumbent contractor? **Gantech**
- 6) What is the Contract Number associated with the current contract? **R00B4400087**
- 7) What is the original awarded value of the contract? **5,975,799.00**
- 8) Has there been a change order? This is an ongoing contract and we cannot disclose the details for this information
- 9) When is the current contract ending? The original contract expiration date was 09/30/2019.
- 10) Is there any further extension planned (beyond what is currently in place or planned)? **This is unknown.**
- 11) What is/are the name(s) of Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) companies that are working under the incumbent provider's contract? **ITS consulting and TCC**
- 12) How many resources are currently providing services? There are currently 6 resources providing services.
- 13) What are the labor categories of the resources currently on the contract? The resources include project manager, Q/A Testing Specialist, Sr. Database Management Specialist, Internet Site Developer. Please see the labor categories also on DoIT site on CATS +
- 2. Why is this TORFP NOT issued as ONLY for SBR companies in the State of Maryland? We do not believe there are SBRs who can perform these services at the prime contract level.
- **3.** We are dually certified as a MDOT MBE and VSBE. Can we fulfill both portions of the MBE and VSBE Subcontracting Goal requirements? **No.**
- 4. Given the current FTE count in relation to the TORFP MBE sub-goals and VSBE goal, would MSDE consider amending the TORFP to allow dually certified MBE

- and VSBE firms to meet both the MBE and VSBE Subcontracting Goals? **No, MBE** guidelines do not allow this.
- 5. Are these positions leaning toward immediate on-site work or remote start? **Immediate start working remotely.**
- 6. This project is about designing school improvement plans; would you need resources with that specific experience? Resources are not needed with experience in designing school improvement plans. [Duplicate question See 36]
- 7. At what stage current project is and how MSDE plans to do the knowledge transfer? See section 2.4.4.4 of TORFP.
- 8. Internet/Intranet Site Developer position seems to be a combination of web development and administration of existing web servers and database. Which side the position is more inclined, is it development or administration? **Developer.**
- 9. What is the approved budget of the previous awarded TO; What is your yearly budget for this TORFP? There is no "yearly budget" however, the original contract had a Not to Exceed Amount of **5,975,799.00**.
- 10. Being a sub is there any limitation for no of teaming engagements? Example, being a sub, a company can involve in one teaming activity or can we part of 2 or 3 teaming activities? The prime contractor must identify a labor code for each proposed MBE or VSBE sub-contractor and the subcontractor must do the type of work approved by the prime contractor
- 11. If being a prime can a company be a sub of another team? I am not aware of any rule that prevents a vendor proposing at the prime level from also listing itself as a subcontractor on another vendor's proposal.
- 12. Can you explain in detail regarding the State and Federal funding arrangements? **Please see section 4.10 of the solicitation.**
- 13. Is there a possibility that this project can decrease or increase in tasks? And what are the approximate figures, both in decrease and increase? **Unknown at this time.**
- 14. What are your timelines for the award and kick-off? We wish to award a contract as soon as possible, we can not speculate as to specific dates.
- 15. What are the most important and critical points for your satisfaction in the response proposals? **Proposals will be evaluated according to section 6 of the TORFP.**
- 16. There are 30% MBE subcontracting goals required in this TORFP. Can our company fulfil these subcontracting goals if we are African-American, and Minority owned? Can the other subcontracting goals (Women-Owned (8%) and Hispanic-American-Owned (2%)) be with firms certified outside of Maryland?

We also would like to ask, that if we are going as prime and we are MBE certified and we would like to confirm if we can self-perform 13% MBE sub goal.

Can an SDVOSB company satisfy the VSBE goal of 3%? Is it mandatory that only Maryland registered VOSB companies can only participate in this bidding to satisfy the VSBE subcontracting goal of 3%? To satisfy the VSBE subcontracting goal of 3%, can an SDVOSB certified by the VA participate in this?

An MBE vendor proposing at the prime level can get credit for 50% of the MBE goal. However, the MBE prime will still need to subcontract with another MBE to fulfill the remaining MBE goal. MBE firms must be certified with The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). Please visit the link below for more information: https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/index.aspx?pageid=90

- 17. Section 2 of the TORFP mentions that this contract is for the "operation and Section maintenance for the Login Management Application (LMA), the Web Data Collection System (WDCS), the Unique Student Identifier System (USIS), the Unique Teacher Identifier System (UTIS) applications, and Title III applications". Can MSDE confirm that it has (or owns) the source code for all the relevant applications mentioned and which are within the scope for O&M? MSDE owns the source code. Can MSDE provide information on when these applications were developed, and which company / contractor developed them? Gantech since 2014.
- 18. The Place of Performance for the resources has been specified in the Key Information Summary Sheet as "TO Contractor's Location".

Will this be applicable for all the six (6) resources that are anticipated for the contract – i.e., three (3) full-time Internet/Intranet Site Developer (Senior) resources; one (1) full - time Quality Assurance/Testing Specialist resource; one (1) part-time Database Management Specialist (Senior) resource; and one (1) part-time Project Manager resource? All resources will work remotely.

Based on historical data, how many times in a month (or year) are these resources anticipated to come onsite to MSDE location for meetings? **It depends on the need.** The 'Primary Place of Performance' is stated as: "TO Contractor's Location"; is this permanent or just during this pandemic? **Permanent.**

- 19. Do you have plans to interview the 'Proposed Personnel' before the award? And if so, what are your procedures and processes? No but the 4 key personnel should be present at orals.
- 20. The Key Information Summary Sheet specifies the MBE goal and sub-goals and a separate VSBE goal. While we applaud State of Maryland and MSDE's efforts for increasing MBE participation, on this solicitation because of part-time resource requirement and offsite work involved, we think the presence of sub-goals will make it very difficult for the execution of the contract.
- We also request MSDE to remove the VSBE goal will MSDE consider this request?

 These subcontracting goals were approved by the Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Disadvantaged Business and cannot be changed.
- 21. Section 1.1.1 of the TORFP specifies the Minimum Qualifications for "Project Manager". The following are related questions:

Can MSDE modify the requirement for "Current Project Management Institute (PMI) Certified Project Management Professional" to PMP or equivalent industry certifications like PMI Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP), Certified Scaled Agile Framework

(SAFe) Agilist, Certified SAFe Product Owner / Product Manager, etc.? Certified Project Management Professional and PMP are the same so no change is needed. Requirement mentioned in Item F "Act as a facilitator between MSDE and IT Contractor" implies that the proposed individual should have worked / is working at MSDE and as such seems restrictive. Can MSDE modify it to state that "Experience acting as a facilitator between client and IT Contractor"? No but since MSDE IS the client it's the same thing. As long as you have experience facilitating between clients and contractor it will suffice.

22. Section 2.3.6 of the TORFP states that the "TO Contractor is responsible for all software and hardware at their location". Our questions are as follows:

Is the TO Contractor expected to provide laptops to its personnel working remotely? Yes

i. If yes, what are the minimum specifications that the laptop should have? Hard drives are to be encrypted at rest at a minimum.

Will the development tools and other software be provided by MSDE? No

- ii. If no, can MSDE specify all the tools and software licenses that the TO Contractor will be expected to procure for the resources' laptops? This is not a question we can respond to. There are many tools available.
- 23. As per the language in multiple sections of the TORFP (Section 2.3.3. F, Section 2.3.5.1. F, Section 2.3.9. A), it appears that the Contractor personnel responsibilities include interacting with DoIT in addition to the MSDE staff. Can the State clarify if the TO Contractor will have a single point of contact from MSDE (i.e., the TO Manager or her designee) or will there be dual reporting for its personnel (i.e., MSDE and DoIT)? The TO Contractor will work directly through the MSDE PM assigned to this contract.
- 24. Section 2.6 of the TORFP deals with the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the work performed under this TORFP. We would like clarification on the definition of various problem types / service priority levels. Specifically:
- **25.** Section 2.6.1. C mentions severity of the following types "Emergency, High, Medium or Low as defined in Section 2.6.8". **Defined by MSDE at time of reporting.**

Section 2.6.7 mentions "Priority Problems" as "High", "Normal", and "Low". However, Section 2.6.8 defines only "High", 'Medium", and "Low" severity / service priority types.

- i. Can MSDE define the "Emergency" and "Normal" types? Same Emergency is the same as high and Normal is the same as medium.
 - 1. If yes, will the Tables in Section 2.6.7 and Section 2.6.8 need to be updated? No
- 26. Based on historical data, can MSDE provide the Number of calls received on a monthly or yearly basis (an approximate number will be helpful if exact numbers are unavailable) for: The responsibilities do not include a help desk. The number of calls or type of calls is unknown.

[&]quot;Emergency" Service Priority types of issues?

[&]quot;High" Service Priority types of issues?

"Medium" Service Priority types of issues?

"Normal" Service Priority types of issues?

"Low" Service Priority types of issues?

Section 2.6.1. C of the TORFP indicates that the TO Contractor is expected to supply "help desk software". The following are questions related to "help desk" / ticketing software: What is the current help desk / ticketing software being used to log problems? Is that supplied by the TO Contractor?

Is MSDE happy with the current help desk / ticketing software being used?

If yes, would it be MSDE's preference to continue using the same?

If the help desk / ticketing software is to be provided by the Contractor, can MSDE let us know how many users are expected to use the same?

The responsibilities (of above questions) do not include a help desk. Use whatever software you want to track identified problems.

27. Section 2.6.2 of the TORFP talks about "Service Level Agreement Service Credits" and Section 2.6.5 of the TORFP talks about "Credit for Failure to Meet SLA". The following are related questions:

Is this type of "compensation to the State" for failure to meet SLAs in place for the current contract? Yes

If yes, can MSDE provide how many times this has been enforced (on the current contract)? **MSDE cannot respond to this question.**

28. Section 3.6.2 of the TORFP specifies that the "TO Contractor shall maintain Cyber Security / Data Breach Insurance in the amount of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) per occurrence". This coverage is significantly more than the coverage sought by other State of Maryland agencies (at \$5,000,000 per occurrence).

We do not plan to change the insurance requirements.

Can MSDE change the Cyber Security / Data Breach Insurance coverage requirements to be in line with other State procurements – i.e., to \$5,000,000 per occurrence? **No**

29. Section 3.10.2 of the TORFP specifies the "Offeror Experience". The following are related questions:

Item "A" talks about experience in "specialized IT and telecommunications disciplines ...". We are not sure why experience in "telecommunications" discipline would be relevant to this effort. Can MSDE remove this? Yes

Item "A" and "B" are identical. Can MSDE delete one of them and renumber subsequent items as "B" and "C"? No but it has been noted that these are duplicates.

- 30. Section 3.15.4 of the TORFP states that "Source Code Escrow" applies to this solicitation. Assuming that the source code for the applications that are within the Scope of Work mentioned in Section 2 of the TORFP already belongs to MSDE, can MSDE specify what are the different software for which it anticipates "Source Code Escrow"? **Determined after award.**
- 31. Section 4.5 "Oral Presentation" of the TORFP talks about "oral presentation" by the Offeror and/or "interviews" of proposed personnel.

Can MSDE clarify if it intends to have an oral presentation with all the proposed resources present in the oral presentation (i.e., a "group" interview with the Offeror being present) or a and/or b

separate interviews for each of the proposed four (4) key personnel? **The 4 key personnel should be present at orals.**

What is the approximate timeframe for MSDE to have the "oral presentation" or "interviews" of the proposed key personnel candidates? Phrased differently, what is the "no-later-than" month that MSDE plans to hold "oral presentation" or "interviews" for the candidates of short-listed contractors? The estimated date will be dependent on the evaluation process, how many bidders are being processed and answers to questions we have for bidders. It is there not easy to estimate the time because of the factors involved.

- 32. Can MSDE provide a second date to ask follow-up questions based on answers to the questions submitted until December 29, 2020? We suggest the deadline for questions be a week before the submission due date. No.
- 33. Assuming that the answers to the questions (which would have been submitted until December 29, 2020) might be available only a week or so later and to allow sufficient time to review those answers we request MSDE for an extension in the proposal due date. Will MSDE grant this request? We do not plan to issue an amendment at this time. If we do so then we will notify all interested parties.
- 34. In Section 3.6.2 CYBER SECURITY / DATA BREACH INSURANCE, it is stated: "In addition to the insurance specified in the CATS+ RFP Section 2.7, TO Contractor shall maintain Cyber Security / Data Breach Insurance in the amount of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) per occurrence. The coverage must be valid at all locations where work is performed or data or other information concerning State residents and employees is processed or stored".

Questions:12. a) Since our company and personnel WILL ONLY be involved in your 'Development' and 'Testing' environments, why should we be liable for the 'Cyber Security / Data Breach' insurance? Technically, there should NOT be any direct access/link between these environments and your 'Real – Production' environments, correct? The MSDE will not change the insurance requirements. This TORFP is an operation and maintenance contract for Development, Testing and Production environments.

12.b) What are your procedures and methodologies used in determining who/how access or beach occurred? Are external entities involved in these procedures?

The Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) operates a 24x7 Security Operations Center (SOC) for networkMaryland and other State Government clients including MSDE. Security incidents are investigated by the SOC

12.c) Have you ever had such a 'Cyber Security / Data Breach' occurrence within your agency? **MSDE cannot answer this question.**

- 35. Will MSDE consider an alternate to PMI-ACP (either other similar certification or substitute with experience) for the Project Manager key personnel position? Yes but they must be certified, NOT substitute with experience.
- 36. This project is about designing of school improvement plans; would you need resource with that specific experience? Resources are not needed with experience in designing school improvement plans. [Duplicate question See 6]
- 37. At what stage current project is and how MSDE plans to do the knowledge transfer? See section 2.4.4.4 of TORFP.
- 38. Internet/Intranet Site Developer position seems to be a combination of web development and administration of existing web servers and database. Which side the position is more inclined, is it development or administration? **Developer**
- 39. Is this a new contract or any incumbent currently providing the services? **The** incumbent is **Gantech**
- 40. If any incumbent or existing contract, what is the approved budget of previous awarded TO? **The original contract had a Not to Exceed Amount of 5,975,799.00.**
- 41. Could you please clarify the below questions?

Among the four key personnel are the Project Manager and Database Management Specialist a part-time position? **Yes**

- 1. Project Manager
- 2. Internet/Intranet Site Developer (Senior)
- 3. Database Management Specialist
- 4. Quality Assurance Specialist
- 42. The TO Contractor shall provide technical support, including but not limited to, consulting, hardware, network, and third-party software-related services. And The TO Contractor shall maintain, support, modify, enhance and update all components of the WDCS as directed by MSDE. The TO Contractor shall provide technical support, including but not limited to, consulting, hardware, network, and third-party software-related services. -
 - 1 What are the different types of support to be anticipated? **Day-to-day** break/fix support from your proposed resources.
 - Are you referring to the Technical support mentioned in section 2.3.10 and the production issues/defects that could not be solved through MSDE resources as they arise in accordance with the Service Level Agreement (SLA) described in Section 2.6 Service Level Agreement (SLA)? Yes
- 43. Section 2.3.10 Technical Support
 Based on the information provided in sections 2.3.10. A, 2.3.10. B, 2.3.10. C, 2.3.10.
 D, 2.3.10. F, 2.3.10. F
 - a. Whom do you anticipate to provide the Technical support? Are they among the 4 key personnel mentioned in the TORFP? **YES**
 - b. If not do we have to suggest any personnel or Labor category for this and include the details in the proposal we submit without a resume? **NO**

- c. Or will it be requested through a Work Order process?
- d. Do we have to provide the Offeror's experience based on sections 2.3.10.A, 2.3.10.B, 2.3.10.C, 2.3.10.D, 2.3.10.E, and 2.3.10.F in the proposal? **NO**
- 44. Section 2.3.2 System Operation and Maintenance for Web Data Collection System
 - a. The four key personnel mentioned in the TORFP are as below. In sections 2.3.2.E, 2.3.2.L, 2.3.2.M it is mentioned about the technical support and help to be provided. So, which type of personnel are you looking for providing Technical help to be available by telephone during non-business hours, including evenings, weekends, and holidays. Are they among the 4 key personnel mentioned in the TORFP? **YES**
 - b. Or will it be requested through a Work Order process?
 - 1. Project Manager
 - Internet/Intranet Site Developer (Senior)
 - 3. Database Management Specialist
 - 4. Quality Assurance Specialist
- 45. The TO Contractor shall provide unlimited e-mail consultation or telephone consultation between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except on State of Maryland holidays. By prior arrangement, the TO Contractor shall have technical help available by telephone during non-business hours, including evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Section 2.39 System Operation, Maintenance, and Support for WDCS - Based on the information provided in sections 2.3.9. A, 2.3.9. B, 2.3.9. C, and 2.3.9. D

- a. Whom do you anticipate to provide this type of support? Are they among the 4 key personnel mentioned in the TORFP? **YES**
- b. If not do we have to suggest any personnel for this in the proposal we submit?
- c. Or will it be requested through a Work Order process?
- d. Do we have to provide the Offeror's experience based on sections 2.3.9.A, 2.3.9. B, 2.3.9. C, and 2.3.9. D in the proposal? **NO**
- 46. Section 2.3.10 Technical Support

Based on the information provided in sections 2.3.10. A, 2.3.10. B, 2.3.10. C, 2.3.10. D, 2.3.10. E, 2.3.10. F

a. Whom do you anticipate to provide the Technical support? Are they among the 4 key personnel mentioned in the TORFP? Yes plus the additional 2 if necessary.

- b. If not do we have to suggest any personnel or Labor category for this and include the details in the proposal we submit without a resume? You can only propose the LCATs described in Attachment B.
- c. Or will it be requested through a Work Order process? NA
- d. Do we have to provide the Offeror's experience based on sections 2.3.10.A, 2.3.10? B, 2.3.10. C, 2.3.10. D, 2.3.10.E, and 2.3.10. F in the proposal? **No.**
- 47. Section 2.6 Service Level Agreement (SLA)

Based on the information provided in sections 2.6.1, 2.6.2, 2.6.3, 2.6.4, 2.6.5, 2.6.6, 2.6.7, and 2.6.8

Do we have to provide the Offeror's experience based on the above sections or should we provide any information about this in the proposal we submit? **No.**

- 48. Section 2.3.8 Product Requirements
 - a. Based on the information provided in Section 2.3.8. A and 2.3.8.B, is it mandatory that offerors should propose any open source software? **No**.
 - b. The purpose of issuing this TORFP is to provide 4 key personnel? 4 key and 2 others. Correct. Refer to attachment B Financial Proposal Form
- 49. Section 3.10.2 Offeror Experience

Based on the information provided in Section 3.10.2.B and 3.10.2.C, should the Offeror provide Project execution experience in specialized IT and telecommunications disciplines involving system interfaces, system integration and network development, and/or integration involving a wide range of network, hardware, and software solutions? **No.**

The TO Contractor shall demonstrate, in its proposal, that it possesses such expertise in-house or has fostered strategic alliances with other firms for providing such services. Should the Offeror provide Project execution experience details? Yes

- 50. Based on sections 1.1.1.D and 1.1.1.E, should the Offeror provide the Offeror's experience in managing Internet projects for government agencies in a multi-tier environment and also the issue and risk mitigation strategies associated with the project? Yes
- 51. Section -3.6 Insurance Requirements -
 - 3.6.1 Offeror shall confirm that, as of the date of its proposal, the insurance policies incorporated into its Master Contract are still current and effective at the required levels (See Master Contract Section 2.7). Should we submit a copy of the Certificate of insurance along with the proposal? Or after the award?

 Please see sections seven and 3.6 of the TORFP. Evidence of meeting insurance requirements is due 5 days after receiving notice of recommendation for award.

In addition to the insurance specified in the CATS+ RFP Section 2.7, TO Contractor shall maintain Cyber Security / Data Breach Insurance in the amount of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) per occurrence. The coverage must be valid at all locations where work is performed or data or other information concerning State residents and employees is processed or stored. Should we submit a copy of the Certificate of insurance along with the proposal? Or after the award? Please see sections seven and 3.6 of the TORFP. Evidence of meeting insurance requirements is due 5 days after receiving notice of recommendation for award.

- 52. Section 3.7.7 Security Plan -Should we provide a security plan along with the proposal? Or after the award? **After contract award.**
- 53. Section 3.9 SOC 2 Type 2 Audit Report -Should we provide the SOC 2 Type 2 Audit Report along with the proposal? Or after the award? **After contract award.**
- 54. If yes, is it possible to provide the SOC 2 Type 2 Audit Report of the subcontractor?
- 55. Section 3.10.4 Number of Personnel to Propose
 As part of the TO Proposal evaluation, Offerors shall propose exactly four personnel who are expected to be available as of the start date specified in the Notice to Proceed (NTP) date.
 Offerors shall describe in a Staffing Plan how additional resources shall be acquired to meet the needs of the Department. Offerors may generally describe planned positions in a Staffing Plan. Such planned positions may not be used as evidence of fulfilling personnel minimum qualifications. Should the Offeror propose specifically the labor categories of the additional resources in the TO Technical proposal that can meet the needs of the Department? Yes.
- 56. Section -3.10.6 Labor Categories C. To be responsive to this TORFP, Offerors must be capable of providing and meeting the minimum qualifications for all the contractor personnel submitted to satisfy the requirements listed in Section 2.3.5. Offerors shall submit a TO Financial Proposal Form (Attachment B) that provides labor rates for all labor categories for all Task Order years (initial term and any option periods). Actual resumes shall be provided only for Key Personnel. Resumes for resources provided later shall be coordinated by the TO Manager per the TO Technical Proposal and, if requested in a Work Order, shall be governed by the Work Order process. Other than the four Key Personnel, should the Offeror propose additional resources in the TO Technical proposal without resumes? Submit a resume for each Resource proposed.
- 57. Section 5.3.4.F E-mail submissions TO Proposals submitted via e-mail must not exceed 5 Mb. If a submission exceeds this size, split the submission into two or more parts and include the appropriate part number in the subject (e.g., part 1 of 2) after the subject line information below. If the TO Proposal exceeds 5 Mb size, maximum how many email submissions are allowed for the TO Technical proposal?

We will amend the solicitation to state that email file sizes should not exceed 25 MB 58. Section 5.4.2. Proposed Services:

- 5.4.2.1 Executive Summary: A one-page summary describing the Offeror's understanding of the TORFP scope of work (Sections 2-3) and proposed solution.
- a. Is it possible to exceed one-page for the executive summary? No
- b. Regarding the proposed solution, other than the resume of the four key personnel what should we propose? Please do not make unsolicited offers or submit alternative bids or proposals, doing so may make your firm non-susceptible for receiving an award.
- 59. Section 5.4.2.3 The Offeror shall identify the location(s) from which it proposes to provide services, including, if applicable, any current facilities that it operates, and any required construction to satisfy the State's requirements as outlined in this TORFP. Should the offer or just provide the business address? Business address is sufficient.
- 60. Section 5.4.2.7.1 Identify the qualifications and types of staff under the Task Order. The Offeror shall describe in detail how the proposed staff's experience and qualifications relate to their specific responsibilities, including any staff of proposed subcontractor(s). What should we provide in this section of the proposal apart from Appendix 4B Personnel Resume Form?
- 61. Section 5.4.2.7.4.a Planned team composition by role (Important! Identify specific names and provide history only for the proposed resources required for evaluation of this TORFP).

What should we provide in this section of the proposal apart since the name of the key personnel and the experience details will be provided in Appendix 4B Personnel Resume Form? **Duplicate question.** See #60 response.

Could you please explain what you mean by Planned team composition by role? The planned team composition by role refers to the roles of the proposed resources.

What do you mean by providing the history for the proposed resources? **Provide the experience of the proposed resources.**

62. Section - 5.4.2.9 Overall Offeror team organizational chart - Provide an overall team organizational chart with all team resources available to fulfill the Task Order scope of work.

Should we provide the management team members and the four key personnel details in the org chart? **Yes**

Should we provide biographical details with an org chart? **No, titles are sufficient.** Should we just provide the name and designation? **Yes**

- 63. Section 5.4.2.11 State Assistance Provide an estimate of expectation concerning participation by State personnel- What should we exactly provide in this section of the TO Technical proposal? **An estimate of what you will need from the MSDE.**
- 64. Section 5.5 Volume II TO Financial Proposal
 Section 5.5.2 The TO Financial Proposal shall contain a description of any
 assumptions on which the Master Contractor's TO Financial Proposal is based
 (Assumptions shall not constitute conditions, contingencies, or exceptions to the

Financial Proposal Form); What should be the assumptions be based on? Assumptions should be based on the solicitation requirements and any associated attachments. Since attachment B is provided in Excel sheet where should we provide the assumptions? You may provide this in a separate document or a separate tab in the excel sheet. Should we create a separate tab for this? A separate tab in the excel sheet may be created. If it is mandatory to provide cover letter for Financial Proposal, then can we create one sheet in the provided excel sheet itself and update it there? Yes

65. Section - 5.5.4 To be responsive to this TORFP, the Financial Proposal Form shall provide labor rates for all labor categories anticipated for this TORFP. Proposed rates shall not exceed the rates defined in the Master Contract for the Master Contract year(s) in effect at the time of the TO Proposal due date.

Do we have to provide labor rates for personnel or resources not mentioned in Attachment B? Please do not alter the Price Sheet by adding additional resources.

- 66. Section 5.5.6 Prices shall be valid for 120 days. Should we acknowledge that Prices shall be valid for 120 days from the due date of the proposal? **Yes**
- 67. 5.4.2.10.2 Note State of Maryland experience can be included as part of G.1 above as engagement or contract experience. State of Maryland experience is neither required nor given more weight in proposal evaluations. Can the offer or provide the State of Maryland experiences under 5.4.2.10.1 itself and not have a section 5.4.2.10.2? Please address both sections separately.
- 68. Section 7 in the TORFP Table 1: TORFP ATTACHMENTS AND APPENDICES. It is mentioned that TO Financial Proposal is due Before TO Proposal? Could you please clarify this? The TO financial proposal is due with the Proposal. we will correct this typographical error with an amendment.

69.

| MBE Subcontracting Goal: | 30 % with sub-goals: |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 8% - Women-owned; |
| | 7% - African American-owned; |
| | 2% - Hispanic American-owned; |
| | 13% - Minority Owned |

- I. Is it mandatory that we should propose subcontractors from all the categories to meet the sub-goal? Can we just meet in total 30% of the MBE goal? Please propose a sub-contractor from each category as required by the TORFP
- II. Can we partner with more than one MBE Subcontractors for the same category to meet the sub-goals? Yes

Suppose If we specify 8% each for both Woman-owned subcontractors, at the time of work order should we mandatory provide 8% for each or a total of 8% is only required to

be met? The Prime contractor has until the expiration of the contract to meet the MBE goal.

- 70. Should we provide a second searchable Adobe copy of the TO Financial Proposal? **Please refer to section five of the TORFP**
- 71. Section 4B. Labor Classification Personnel Resume Summary In the form it is mentioned that Relevant Work Experience Describe work experience relevant to the Duties / Responsibilities and Minimum Qualifications described in the TORFP. Starts with the most recent experience first; do not include non-relevant experience.

While filling in this section, do we have to consider the Responsibilities and Tasks given in section 2.3 of this TORFP along with the Duties, Education, General Experience and Specialized given in the Section 2.10 Labor category of the CATS+ RFP? Yes

72. On page 158, in the third row second column it is mentioned Candidate Relevant Experience.

We are already mapping and providing details in 4A and 4B page relevant to the education and experience information. So, what should we provide in this section? The same information again? Yes

73. On page 158 Experience: [Insert the experience description from Section xx for the applicable labor category]

What is this section XX? This is a reference to section 3.10 we will issue an amendment to correct this typographical error.

- 74. Is the Responsibilities and Tasks mentioned in Section 2.3 to be considered as Duties? Yes.
- 75. Is Wet signature mandatory for all the forms? No
- 76. Is e-signature allowed for all forms? Yes
- 77. Can we electronically fill all the forms in the PDF format itself without making any changes to the forms and then insert as images into the word proposal? Yes or you can submit your proposal as a searchable PDF
- 78. Section 5.4.2.7.4.c. Supporting descriptions for all labor categories proposed in response to this TORFP. What should we exactly provide in this section of the TO Technical proposal? From CATS+ LCATS

 https://doit.maryland.gov/contracts/Pages/ContractLibraryCATSPlus.aspx
- 79. Can we partner with more than one VSBE Subcontractor? Yes
- 80. Section 5.4.2 4. b Process and proposed lead time for locating and bringing onboard resources that meet the Task Order needs. Should we mention in specific about the labor categories mentioned in the TORFP or just provide a generic process and proposed lead time for locating and bringing onboard resources? **Provide specifics.**

81. Section 5.4.2 10 Master Contractor and Subcontractor Experience and Capabilities Provide up to three examples of engagements or contracts the Master Contractor or Subcontractor, if applicable, has completed that were similar to the requested scope of work. Include contact information for each client organization complete with the following:

Can we provide more than 3 examples of engagements? Yes
Can we provide more than one example of the engagements of the subcontractors? Yes

82. Do we have to submit the D-1A MBE UTILIZATION AND FAIR SOLICITATION AFFIDAVIT & MBE PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE INSTRUCTIONS FOR the form?

Please see section 7 of the TORFP

- 83. To clearly understand the filling of the GOAL/SUBGOAL PARTICIPATION WORKSHEET and MBE Participation schedule is it possible to show calculation by providing realistic examples? Please see section 4.7 of the RFP and visit the governor's office of Small, Minority & Disadvantaged Business at https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/index.aspx?pageid=90
- 84. In the 4B Personnel Resume form, since we are already mapping the general and specialized experience of the form of the TORFP, then what exactly should we provide on the right side where it has mentioned Education, Experience, and Duties? Describe the proposed individual's education, experience and proposed duties in the corresponding spaces.
- 85. Do we have to provide any details related to the below in the Proposal we submit?

| Solicitation | Proposed Question | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Section/Topic | | |
| Attachment B – | Item D on the Instructions Tab states that "Any goods or services | |
| Financial | required through this RFP and proposed by the vendor at No Cost to the | |
| Proposal Form, | State must be clearly entered in the Unit Price, if appropriate, and | |
| Instructions Tab | Extended Price with \$0.00". Is it the State's intent for vendors to add | |
| | rows to the form for these types of goods or services as there are not | |
| | blank rows on which to make these types of entries? | |
| | Please do not alter the Price sheet by adding line items. | |
| Attachment B – | Is the vendor to add rows for proposed labor categories that are in | |
| Financial | addition to the four key personnel or are we to provide rates for the four | |
| Proposal Form, | key personnel only? | |
| Financial | Please do not alter the Price sheet by adding line items. | |
| Proposal Form | | |
| Tab | | |
| Attachment B – | The description for the Internet/Intranet Site Developer indicates a | |
| Financial | Senior designation while the labor category description for CATS+ RFP | |
| Proposal Form, | Section 2.10.78, provided by DoIT, in the Amendment for 2.10, Labor | |
| Financial | Categories and Descriptions, is an Internet/Intranet Site Developer, | |
| | Junior: | |

| Proposal Form | | |
|---|--|--|
| Tab | 2.10.78 Internet/Intranet Site Developer (Junior) | |
| | Duties: Must be able to translate applications requirements into the design of complex web sites, including integrating web pages and applications. Must be able to apply new and emerging technologies to the development process. Education: A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university with a major in Computer Science, Information Systems, Engineering, Business, or other related scientific or technical discipline or three (3) years of equivalent experience in a related field. General Experience: Must have one (1) year of web development experience using current Web development and graphic tools, as well as, Web server and database administration. Specialized Experience: At least one (1) year of experience designing, developing and deploying Web sites and/or Web applications, including product selection, configuration, installation, maintenance, and site policy development. Experience developing Web pages using HTML, scripting languages, platform specific web development languages and relational databases. Which is correct? Senior | |
| TASK ORDER | | |
| REQUEST FOR | Since questions are not due until 12/29, when does the State intend to provide responses to questions? Would the State consider extending the | |
| PROPOSALS | due date for the response? We will provide answers as soon as possible | |
| (TORFP), page iii | • | |
| of 137 | | |
| TASK ORDER REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (TORFP), Section 1 Minimum | The hyperlink provided for the CATS+ RFP labor category descriptions does not appear to be correct as it does not reflect Amendment 2.10 Labor Categories and Descriptions. Please clarify and/or provide the correct link. This URL works. | |
| Qualifications, | Please visit | |
| Pages 1 – 4 of 137 | https://doit.maryland.gov/contracts/Pages/ContractLibraryCATSPlus.asp | |
| 1 101 107 | <u>X</u> | |

| TASK ORDER | Can the State please clarify where the existing hardware is hosted? | | |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| REQUEST FOR | MSDE | | |
| PROPOSALS | Will the TO Contractor be expected to host the hardware listed? No | | |
| (TORFP), Page 6 | _ | | |
| of 137, Section | | | |
| 2.2.2, Existing | | | |
| Hardware | | | |
| TORFP, Page 8 | This section states that "The TO Contractor shall perform all work for | | |
| of 137, Section | this project in the US. No work can be performed or outsourced to | | |
| 2.3.1 | resources located outside of the U.S." Will all project work be performed | | |
| | at the contractor site? No. | | |
| | Will the key and/or other project personnel be required to support work | | |
| | at MSDE's location? No, project personnel will not be required to be | | |
| | onsite at MSDE's location. | | |
| TASK ORDER | This section states that "TO Contractor shall maintain and support the | | |
| REQUEST FOR | production, testing, and development environments." Where are these | | |
| PROPOSALS | environments hosted? MSDE | | |

| (TORFP), Section 2.3.2, page 8 of 137 | How will the TO Contractor access these environments? VPN | |
|--|---|--|
| TORFP, Section 2.3.2, page 9 of 137 | This section states, "The TO Contractor shall create and maintain technical documentation for the hardware, software and database" Does MSDE have a repository that they use/provide to the TO Contractor for documentation or does the TO Contractor need to propose a tool? Yes, MSDE has a repository. | |
| TORFP, Section 2.3.3, page 9 of 137 | Does MSDE provide tools to use for Quality Assurance activities or is it the responsibility of the TO Contractor to provide these tools? This is the responsibility of the TO Contractor. | |
| TORFP, Section 2.3.4, page 10 of 137 | Does MSDE use a specific tool to support release management or is it the responsibility of the TO Contractor to propose and provide these tools? This is the responsibility of the TO Contractor. | |
| TORFP, Section 3.5, page 30 of 137 | This section discusses disaster recovery and data, however in reading the TORFP, it does not appear/seem that the TO Contractor will receive and/or maintain/store any MSDE data at our site. Please clarify if this is not a correct assumption. This assumption is correct. | |
| TORFP, Section 3.5.7, Data Protection and Controls, Page 34 of 137 | This section discusses the TO Contractor's requirement to secure environments and data. Can the State please explain what hardware will be hosted/maintained by the TO Contractor? And, what data? See section 2.4.4.5 | |
| TORFP, Section 3.10.6, Page 43 of 137 | The hyperlink provided in item A. is not working. Can the State please provide a new link? See above It works. | |
| TORFP, Section 3.10.6, Page 43 of 137 | Per the TORFP, "In addition to the Key Personnel identified in Section 3.10.5, Offerors must use the Labor Classification Resume Summary (Appendix 4) to propose appropriate CATS+ labor categories from Section 2.10 of the CATS+ TORFP (http://doit.maryland.gov/contracts/Documents/CATSPlus2016/060B249 0023- 2016CATSPlus2016RFP.pdf) for each of the roles described in Section 2.3.5 of this TORFP and listed below: 1. Project Manager 2. Internet/Intranet Site Developer (Senior) 3. Database Management Specialist 4. Quality Assurance Specialist Are vendors required to propose LCATS in addition to the four listed key personnel LCATS? No, proposing LCATS is not required. | |
| TORFP, Section 3.15.4 Source Code Escrow, Page 49 of 137 | This section states that Source Code Escrow is applicable to this TO Agreement. If the TO Contractor is using VPN to access the Development environment, which is hosted by DoIT, why would the TO Contractor escrow and/or maintain source code outside of this system? | |

| | Can the State please clarify? As long as only MSDE servers are used, the TO Contractor does not need to escrow and/or maintain source code. – also see earlier question | |
|--|--|--|
| TORFP, Section 5.5.5, Page 63 of 137 | Under Volume II – Task Order Financial Proposal, the instructions state, "Note: Failure to specify a CATS+ labor category in the completed Financial Proposal Form for each proposed resource will make the TO Proposal non-responsive to this TORFP." | |
| | The Excel file provides the labor categories specified by MSDE. Can the State please clarify what they mean by this statement? The labor categories are already provided in the sheet. | |
| Amendment #2 | Currently the only Amendment posted for this effort is Amendment #2 posted December 15, 2020. Is there an Amendment #1 not yet posted? No | |
| TORFP, Section 7, Page 68 of 137 | Per Table 1: TORFP Attachments and Appendices, Attachment B, TO Financial Proposal Instructions and Form, is to be submitted Before TO Proposal. | |
| | Please confirm this is to be submitted on the TO Proposal Due Date. See above | |
| TORFP, Section 3.10.6, Item C, | "Actual resumes shall be provided only for Key Personnel" | |
| Page 43 of 137 | Please confirm if resumes and Resume Summary Forms (Attachment 4B) are to be provided for the key personnel. Yes, this is correct. | |
| TORFP, Key Information | Per the MBE Subcontracting Goals, | |
| Summary Sheet, | 8% - Women-owned; 7% - African American-owned; | |
| Page ii of 137, | 2% - Hispanic American-owned; | |
| MBE Subcontracting | 13% - Minority Owned. | |
| Subcontracting Goal | In accordance with MD Office of Minority Business Enterprise, certified Women, African American, and Hispanic businesses are all classified as an MBE. | |
| | Is the additional 13% Minority owned goal intended to be distributed amongst the existing three MBEs, or to be distributed to a fourth additional MBE of any MBE certified designation? Either | |
| TORFP, Section 5.4.2, Page 59 of 137, Executive Summary | Per the TO Technical Proposal instructions, "Executive Summary: A one-page summary describing the Offeror's understanding of the TORFP scope of work (Sections 2-3) and proposed solution." | |
| Summar y | Please confirm if this is intended to be an acknowledgement of our knowledge and understanding of the content in Section 2 and Section 3 of the TORFP. Yes, this is correct. | |

| TORFP, Section 3.10.2, Page 41 of 137, Offeror Experience | The following item is duplicated in the TORFP for both items A and B under 3.10.2: "The TO Contractor shall have at least five (5) years of experience in specialized IT and telecommunications disciplines involving system interfaces, system integration and network development, and/or integration involving a wide range of network, hardware, and software solutions." |
|--|--|
| | Is another requirement intended to be in place of the duplicate? No. |

- Section 2.4 - Deliverables -

Based on the information provided in the sections

- 2.4.4.1 Transition-Out Plan
- 2.4.4.2 Bi-Weekly Status Report
- 2.4.4.3 Project Management Plan
- 2.4.4.4 Transition In Plan

Do we have to provide any details related to the below in the Proposal we submit? **No, details are not required for the items provided below.**

In addition to the items identified in the table below, the TO Contractor may suggest other subtasks, artifacts, or deliverables to improve the quality and success of the assigned tasks.

| ID# | Deliverable Description | Acceptance Criteria | Due Date / Frequency |
|---------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 2.4.4.1 | Transition-Out Plan | Plan for the TO Contractor to facilitate the orderly transfer of service to the State or a follow- o contractor, for a period up to 60 days prior to Task Order end date as described in Section 3.2 | s date. |
| 2.4.4.2 | Bi-Weekly Status Report | Report is complete with all data as required in 2.4.4.3 | Email Report to TO Manager no later than 10:00 AM 2 business days prior to meeting |

| 2.4.4.3 | Project Management Plan | TO Contractor shall deliver a Project Management Plan (PMP) in PDF form. The PMP will describe how the TO Contractor will manage the project. | NTP + 30 Calendar Days |
|---------|---|---|---------------------------|
| 2.4.4.4 | Transition-In Plan | The Transition-In Plan shall address transitioning from the existing TO Contractor at the end of the contract. | NTP + 30 Calendar Days |
| 2.4.4.5 | Production Ready Applications for Data Collections Login Management Application (per collection) WDCS - School Data Set (Fall) WDCS - Class Level Membership (Spring) WDCS -Early (March) Attendance WDCS -End of Year Attendance (Summer) | appropriate MSDE personnel shall commence a review and testing of the deliverable to validate the completeness and quality | least 30 days |

| □ WDCS -Statistical Process Control (Per Collection) □ WDCS - Student Discipline (Per Collection) | usability, content, accuracy, completeness, and compliance with the stated requirements, | |
|---|--|--|
|---|--|--|

| | □ WDCS − Staff (Per Collection) □ USIS Submissions (Initial Submission Fall, Daily Maintenance throughout year) □ UTIS Submissions (Initial Submission Fall, Daily Maintenance throughout year) | In the event of rejection, the TO Contractor shall correct the identified deficiencies or nonconformities within a mutually agreed upon time period. Other task due dates may be solely determined by MSDE. Once MSDE's issues have been addressed and resolutions are accepted by the MSDE PM, the TO Contractor will incorporate the resolutions into the deliverable and resubmit the deliverable for acceptance. | |
|---------|---|---|---|
| 2.4.4.6 | Maintain all SDLC documentation related to USIS, UTIS, LMA, and WDCS applications. | related documentation for each collection cycle including: Change Management Plan Functional Requirements Document | Upon receipt of a final deliverable, at least 30 days prior to collection window. |

| TORFP SECTION(S) | PAGE #(S) | QUESTION / DISCREPANCY |
|-------------------------|-----------|--|
| 1.1.4 | 4 | The Internet/Intranet Site Developer minimum requirements list several broad technologies; J2EE, .NET, JavaScript, HTML, EV, Java, C#, XML, AJAX, and Business Objects. Which technology(ies) are relevant to these applications? a) As there are 4 distinct applications, are all applications written in the same shared language? Yes. |

| 2.2.3 | 6 | Can vendors propose/use an ALM (Application Lifecycle Management) tool of the vendors choice with State's approval? Yes |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| 2.2.3 | 6 | Have the supporting technologies (I.e., IBM Rational ClearCase, HP Quality Center, etc.) changed at all since the last contract award? Yes If so, what is currently being leveraged? Please see section 2.2.2 Existing Hardware. If they are all still being leveraged, is MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) open to using different, more modern platforms to support the program? This TORFP is an operations and maintenance contract. |
| 3.9 | 38 | If all environments and source code is hosted by MSDE/DoIT, what responsibility does the TO Contractor bear for the SOC 2 Type 2 audit? To be determined after the contract award. |
| 3.10.3 - C | 42 | C. Database Management Specialist – is this a Sr. Position? It is listed as Sr. In 1.1.3. Yes |
| 3.10.20 - A/B | 41 | Can you please elaborate on the relevancy of the telecommunications experience outlined in these sections (A & B, which are duplicated)? Disregard telecommunications. "The TO Contractor shall have at least five (5) years of experience in specialized IT and telecommunications disciplines involving system interfaces, system integration and network development, and/or integration involving a wide range of network, hardware, and software solutions." |
| 3.15.4 | 49 | As discussed during the pre-proposal conference, all environments are hosted by MSDE/DoIT. Does this include all source code repositories? Yes. a) If so, is there a need for a source code escrow agreement if the TO Contractor does not have possession of any code? Unknown at this time b) If the source code is required, does it need to be managed in house or can it be placed in a secure cloud repository managed by the vendor? This is acceptable however MSDE must have access to the source code repository. |
| 5.2 vs 7 (Table 1) | 58 vs 68 | According to Section 5, the Volume II – TO FINANCIAL PROPOSAL is part of the 5.2 Two Part Submission and to be submitted as a part of the TO Proposal. However, this contradicts the Section 7 Table 1: TORFP (Task Order Request for Proposal) ATTACHMENTS AND APPENDICES which dictates the TO Financial Proposal Instructions and Form be turned in Before TO Proposal. When is the Financial Proposal due? See above |

| 5.4.2 | 59 | Proposal Format – should the format of the proposal follow how the TORFP is structured (I.e., Table of Contents) or the format identified in section 5.4.2 (Executive Summary, Assumptions, Location, etc.) Yes please see section 5 of the torfp |
|---|---|--|
| 7 (Table 1) | 68-70 | Please confirm if D1-A and D1-B are to be submitted 10 Business Days after award. Is E1-4 to be completed with Proposal? Is E-4 to be completed 5 days after award? Is G-2 and G3 to be completed with proposal? Is I-2 and I-3 to be completed 5 days after award? Please see section 7 |
| 7 (Table 1) | 69 | Is Appendix 1 due with the proposal? In Table 1 it indicates it applies (Y), but N/A in when to submit. This is a typographical error, you do not need to submit appendix 1. |
| Listed in Attachment B – Financial Proposal (2.10.39) | Attachment B Financial Proposal Form.xls | For the position of Database Management Specialist because it is part-time is there a minimum guaranteed allocation? Is it a firm fixed price (FFP) or is it time & materials (T&M), can it vary? If it can vary, can we get an estimate of how many hours were dedicated to this role in the past? Refer to financial spreadsheet. |
| Listed in Attachment B – Financial Proposal (2.10.95) | Attachment B Financial Proposal Form.xls | For the position of Project manager, because it is part-time is there a minimum guaranteed allocation? Is it a firm fixed price (FFP) or is it time & materials (T&M), can it vary? If it can vary, can we get an estimate of how many hours were dedicated to this role in the past. Refer to financial spreadsheet. |
| Attachment I – NDA | 132-133 | The personally identified information (PII) outlined in this section which will be accessed by the TO Contractor personnel — will this data appear in all environments (including DEV)? If so, will the data need to be scrubbed to protect the data when being worked on, or are there any privacy or security regulations which must be adhered to, outside of what is listed in this NDA? Yes, strategies must be implemented to protect PII in all environments. All state privacy and security regulations must be followed in addition to the NDA. |
| N/A | N/A | Have application/database technologies changed at all since the last contract award? If so, what is currently being leveraged? Yes. |