STATE OF ALASKA
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

Department of Administration
Division of General Services
333 Willoughby Avenue, 10th
Floor PO Box 110208
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0208

Programming Services and Support

GENERAL INFORMATION

The State of Alaska is seeking information from interested parties who offer programming services and other related support for transactional systems, such as: retirement and benefits system, accounting (including billing), and/or human resources.

The purpose of this RFI is to:

1. Collect information from businesses that offer programming services in order to help the State of Alaska determine the best way to procure services that will support state's Combined Retirement System (CRS), a pension management software package purchased and installed by Retirement Concepts Group in the late 1990's.

2. Identify businesses that have programmers with experience providing programming services utilizing all of the following: COBOL, IBM DB/2, Versioning software, Oracle, JAVA, Web development, Object Oriented Design, HTML, DHTML, JavaScript, XML, XSLT, XPath, Visual Basic, Crystal Reports, .Net (C2/ASP), and MS SQL.

3. Identify businesses that have programmers who specialize or have experience providing programming services for transactional systems, including experience with Retirement Concepts Systems deployments.

Interested parties responding to this RFI must provide a description of the business, the programming services they offer, and staff resumes that demonstrate the experience in all the aforementioned programs and transactional systems, along with estimated hourly costs to acquire these services. The response should also include contact information such as: name of the company, point of contact name(s), physical and mailing addresses, phone and fax numbers, and email address.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The State of Alaska does not intend to award a contract from this RFI, nor will it be financially responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of any response for the requested information. This RFI is issued for the sole purpose of obtaining information as described in this notice. However, the information obtained from this request may or may not be used to prepare a solicitation in the future.

In addition, all material obtained from the RFI will become the property of the State of Alaska, including pricing information. This information will be maintain in confidence during the reviewing process, and/or until the state determines the best way to procure these services. Thereafter, the information becomes public.

The information in the Offeror response may be held confidential if the Offeror requests, in writing, that the procurement officer does so, and if the procurement officer agrees, in writing, to do so. The Offeror's request must be included within their response and must be clearly identified.

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COMBINED RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CRS) BACKGROUND

CRS was procured by the State of Alaska in the late 1990's and was heavily customized for its business processes by a company called Retirement Concept Group. CRS is the main mission critical data processing system used by the Department of Administration, Division of Retirement & Benefits (DRB) to conduct Defined Benefit and Defined Contribution Retirement System operations. It is an integrated modular software system that maintains records for approximately 200,000 current and past members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), Teachers' Retirement System (TRS), Judicial Retirement System (JRS), and the National Guard and Naval Militia Retirement System (NGNMRS).

The employer reporting and membership modules of CRS receive, store, and administer information reported for employees of 272 separate employer reporting units. These employers typically report information electronically on employees after each of their pay periods. Approximately 50% of the employee volume is generated by the State of Alaska; the other 50% is from 268 outside reporting units. DRB typically processes approximately 5,000 electronically submitted data files from employers each year.

The payroll module of CRS produces approximately 33,000 payments each month to its members. Most are issued to retirees in a monthly payroll process. There are also weekly payroll runs of small volume for retiree payments and refunds to members cashing out. Monthly disbursements exceed $60 million. Approximately 92% of the payments are made by electronic fund transfer (EFT), and 8% by paper warrants. The system is also used for federal tax reporting. The CRS Retiree Payroll is the Division's most important function.

CRS finance module maintains its own general ledger but interfaces accounting information to the state's general ledger system known as the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS). Periodic reconciliations are performed to ensure that CRS and IRIS remain in balance. CRS is the original book of entry for each of the retirement systems.

As of July 1, 2006, the defined contribution components were added to the PERS and TRS. These components required DRB to partner with a third party business for record keeping and investment of the defined contributions. CRS is used to siphon defined contribution information from employer reporting and creates interfaces to the record keeper. The record keeper also has interfaces to CRS so investment information can be fed back to it.

The information in CRS is the basis for:

1. Payments of member benefits and refunds, including payment of pension payments by the Division directly and those done through a third party record keeper;
2. Reporting of health care deductions, benefits, and insurances to a third party administrator;
3. Actuarial evaluations that are done each year to determine system funding status, total system liabilities, and set employer contribution rates;
4. Accounting transactions and information about system revenues, expenditures, assets and liabilities investment transactions that are used by external sources;
5. The annual audited system financial statements and reports of all systems;
6. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports for the PERS and TRS;
7. Member statements of account balance and benefit entitlements;
8. Presentations of CRS member information via internet for employers participating in the plans and also used for members to obtain information on their accounts and benefit entitlements.

CRS System Software Profile and Statistics

CRS Production Source	Program Count	Lines of Code
SQL/COBOL Source	675	537,282
SQL/COBOL CopyBook Source	691	81,298
Control Language Source	385	11,686
Display File Source	267	54,965

Menu File Source	14	610
SQL Script Source	3	14
Command Source	3	8
Data Definition Source	563	25,018
FTP & JCL Source Code	150	6,316
Mainframe AFP Source	10	4,000
Mainframe JCL Source	6	150
Mainframe COBOL Source	3	4,500
Mainframe Copybook Source	3	180
Total	**2,773**	**723,027**

Major Relational File Statistics

Major files for the CRS are large keyed files (using various keys) with the following current record counts:

- Membership History (MEMHIS) – 10,500,000 records;
- Benefit Checks (CHKBEN) – 3,400,000 records;
- Service Calculation (SVCALC) – 2,500,000 records;
- Heath Reporting History (HLHSTDTP) – 1,500,000 records.

CRS Environments

CRS resides on both AS400's Production (PROD) and Test/Development (TEST). The TEST machine hosts three environments, one for programmer unit testing, one for DRB staff acceptance testing and one as a backup for production should the production machine fail. Each of these environments is, in essence, a duplication of the production system. Mainframe services are used to collect some data, process some printed files, and feed IRIS, the statewide accounting system. The data is stored in relational DB2/400 files and accessed as necessary by all of the following methods:

Operating Systems

- OS/400™ V5R4M0 Operating System
- MVS for zSeries

Languages

- Microsoft's Visual Basic™ (VB)
- Sun's JAVA from the Statewide WAN Operating System, Languages and Tools (all versions for IBM iSeries i5™) in Actual Use – All JAVA/400 language and tools
- SQL & SQL/400™ (both stand alone and integrated into COBOL) Structured Query Language
- Query/400™ programs from the iSeries i5™
- COBOL/400™ COmmon Business Oriented Language
- CL/400™ Control Language
- AFP™ Advanced Function Printing

Tools

- DB2/400™ Data Base built into OS
- FTP File Transfer Protocol
- RLU™ Report Layout Utility
- SDA™ Screen Design Aid
- Oasis PFE™ Passport File Editor - An optional file editor
- DDS™ Data Definition Source Language
- PDM™ Programming Development Manager - File Editor
- ISDB™ Interactive Source DeBugger
- Softlanding™ TurnOver™ Release 5.4. a source version control product.

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PC Tools used in support of CRS Application

- Microsoft Windows 95/2000/XP™ PC Operating System
- Microsoft Access 97™ PC Database Application
- Microsoft Word 2003™ PC Word Processing Application
- Microsoft Excel 2003™ PC Spreadsheet Application
- Mansfield KEDIT 1.5t™ A PC file editor
- AttachMate EXTRA!™ and RALLY™ 3270 and 5250 emulation applications
- Linoma Surveyor™ Software
- IBM *i*Series Access™ (aka Client Access™)

*i*Series *i*5™ Equipment Platforms

CRS is currently operating on two IBM *i*Series *i*5™ model 520 minicomputer systems running OS/400™ Version 5 Release 4 (V5R4). One system is designated as PROD and the other is designated as TEST. They are both software tier P10 machines. Files on both machines are stored in relational database called DB2/400™.

The PROD system is located on the 5th floor of the Juneau State Office Building, located at 333 Willoughby, in the mid-tier area and the TEST system is located in the Suite 100 computer room of the 400 W. Willoughby Annex. Both systems are relatively identical in hardware and software. Each is connected via 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps) Ethernet line to a Cisco™ model 4507 Router. The two DRB Cisco Routers are connected to each other and to the statewide WAN (with Internet connections) via 1 Gbps Ethernet lines, forming the DRB Backbone.

RESPONSE INFORMATION

Interested parties must submit a written response by **Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at 4:30p.m. AST** directed to the Procurement Officer, Emmanuel Feliciano. Responses may be sent by U.S. mail, E-mail, and/or Fax to the below addresses. If sending response via fax, please send an email prior to submitting so it can be acknowledged and accounted. Any questions concerning this request must be directed to the Procurement Officer in writing via email.

Department of Administration
Division of General Services
Attention: Emmanuel Feliciano
P.O. Box 110208
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0208
Phone: 907-465-5762
Fax: 907-465-2194
Email: emmanuel.feliciano@alaska.gov

Please note the State does not accept responsibility for failed U.S. mail or e-mailed response deliveries. It is the responsibility of the interested party to follow up with the individual listed above to ensure your response was received prior to the deadline specified above.