

NSTAR Re-Platform RFP Questions and Answers

A. Batch 1

V 5.01.02 NSTAR System Review

The contractors, with the aid of CSSD SMEs and Systems personnel, will perform a summary review of NSTAR to familiarize themselves with the breadth and complexity of NSTAR. Documentation produced by the previous NMPP contractor team will be invaluable for this effort.

Can you clarify the meaning of the “Documentation produced by the previous NMPP contractor team.” wording.

1. What is the scope of this documentation?

A copy of the Alaska NSTAR Modernization Planning Project - Business Process Analysis V5.1 FINAL.docx. and the Alaska NSTAR Modernization Planning Project - Gap Analysis V2.4 070314 FINAL.pdf are attached. These two documents provide information regarding the CSSD busing processes.

2. Is the referenced documentation available to proponents to support proposal planning and assessment?

Yes. See attached/link.

3. What was the mandate of the previous NMPP contractor?

See Section 4.02 of the RFP. The previous contractor was responsible for completing the OCSE mandated and detailed Planning Process to advance the modernization of the NSTAR system.

The RFP references test activities for the re-platforming project.

4. Does the State have any preferred testing tools or processes?

No. The only stringent requirement is that the testing be extensive and thorough

5. Does the State have existing test scripts and test scenarios?

No.

The RFP references application security.

6. What is the current Identity and Access Management approach?

CSSD is part of the Department of Revenue Active Directory (AD) infrastructure.

7. Does NSTAR rely on an application-based access control such as user profiles and passwords defined in the Natural source code?

NSTAR relies on role based application screen access. Roles and access are controlled by the System Programmers.

8. Does the state have a preferred Windows-specific IAM (Identity Access Management) tool or approach?

For internal users the preference is to use Active Directory and for external users "MyAlaska" the State of Alaska's citizen to government authentication portal. Within the SQL database the preference is to assign roles to Active Directory Groups.

The RFP specifies the use of .Net but does not further specify any specific/preferred programming language.

9. Is there any actual language preference?

C# = ASP.Net

10. Is any CLI compliant language acceptable?

It depends on the language.

11. Is a Java / SQL Server solution acceptable?

No.

⇒ Answer

The RFP specifies the User Documentation as Deliverable(s) 5.01.10.

12. Is the existing User Documentation and/or a Master Index of this documentation available for review?

The User Documentation requirement has been removed per Amendment One, issued 11/9/2016.

13. Is the existing documentation complete and relevant?

⇒ Answer

The User Documentation requirement has been removed per Amendment One, issued 11/9/2016.

The RFP specifies the System Documentation as Deliverable(s) 5.01.11.

14. Is the existing System Documentation and/or an Master Index of this documentation available for review?

No.

15. Is the existing documentation complete and relevant?

No.

⇒ Answer

The RFP identifies IBM Script as a component of the NSTAR application.

16. How many Script correspondence/document templates are defined and/or in use?

Approximately 400.

17. Does the State have a preferred, Windows-based replacement correspondence management solution?

No. There is currently an ongoing project with the University of Alaska to define the Systems Requirements, with perhaps an eventual implementation before next summer.

The RFP identifies an existing mainframe platform for NSTAR.

18. What is the basic configuration of the current platform (size, operation system, MIPS rating, TP monitor)?

The mainframe NSTAR application, public web servers and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) are physically located at the State Data Center in Juneau and supported by the Enterprise Technology Services (ETS) group. ETS provides 99.8% mainframe system availability within agreed service hours. ETS provides a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to ensure continuity of critical operations and supports and maintains a wide range of security commitments, adhering to State Security Office (SSO) standards and policies.

The NSTAR mainframe server resides on the State network infrastructure physically located at the State Data Center in Juneau. The network is an Internet Protocol (IP) based Local Area Network (LAN) connected to the State of Alaska Wide Area Network (WAN). NSTAR system users access the mainframe via an IP-based LAN to the State WAN. CSSD's LAN is configured in a dual-star configuration for redundancy and security. Communication with the federal network is accomplished through Connect:Direct.

19. Are there any NSTAR relevant products other than Script in use (i.e SAS, reporting tools, utilities)

A few Easytrieve reports.

The RFP identifies Natural/ADABAS/Cobol as the primary software components of the NSTAR application.

20. What are the versions and release levels of these products?

Adabas is v8.3.1

Natural is v4.2.7 with v824 available for users.

We're using IBM Enterprise COBOL for z/OS Version 4, Release 2.

21. Are the SAG products Predict and Construct in use?

Yes.

22. What job scheduler is in use on the mainframe?

Zeke.

The RFP identifies in 5.01.04 a deliverable for Code Conversion.

23. Is the existing Natural codebase available to proponents in SYSTRANS or SYSOBJH format?

These tools are available but we have not used them.

24. Is the ADABAS schema available in ADAREP and/or SYSOBJH format?

These tools are available but we have not used them.

25. Are any data models or other technical document artifacts available to proponents?

We do not have data models or tech documents other than what is available through Software AG.

The RFP references 400 screens in NSTAR.

26. Are “screens” equivalent to external MAPs?

Yes.

27. Are there statistics (line and module counts) available for all of the Natural/ADABAS/Cobol source modules (i.e. Programs, Subprograms, Subroutines, Data Areas, Copybooks, ...Files?

Item	Approximate Count
Batch Programs (primarily Natural)	600
Online Programs (primarily Natural)	592
Maps	1553
Production Screens	589
DFIX Screens (Data Fixes by Systems Personnel)	387
User Screens	202
Web Based Programs/modules (Natural)	22
Production Subroutines	38
Production Subprograms	414
COBOL Modules	5
ADABAS Files	119
MS SQL Files/Tables	15

28. Are statistics available on the number batch jobs and JCL modules define in use of the NSTAR application?

We have approximately 180 batch jobs that run throughout the year.

29. Does the State have a preferred JCL / Job Scheduler available for the Windows server platform?

Zeke

The RFQ contemplate areas where changes to system during the re-platform effort could be acceptable (p. 26) and identifies 300 system bugs and fixes documented the CSSD Helpdesk Management System (p. 25).

30. Has the complexity of these changes been subject to analysis?

Yes. An extensive cleanup effort has been underway for a year now and will continue for six more months. The actual re-platforming is not intended to address any of the remaining issues.

31. Are the reports and/or any digest or Master Index reports available to proponents for review?

There is a "Distribution List" for all reports. It is a master list of all reports and to whom they are sent. The Distribution List is attached.

The RFP identifies multiple application interfaces.

32. Is an inventory and description (i.e. file transfer; web service,) of all interfaces available to proponents?

CSSD has access to external systems for information gathering, mostly through mainframe files or data that has been sent/received via ftp or ftps.

Manual/ Batch	Job	Frequency	Input Output Process I/O/P	Purpose
Batch	RCSB103P	Daily	P	Process UIB Receipts
Batch	RCSB104P	Mon-Fri	P	Process EFT Collections
Batch	RCSB105P	Daily	P	Process IVA Interface Input Transactions
Batch	RCSB106P	Mon-Fri	O	IKON Receipt Imaging Interface to NFIN

Manual/ Batch	Job	Frequency	Input Output Process I/O/P	Purpose
Batch	RCSB107P	Daily	P	Process the IVE input from OCS
Batch	RCSB108P	Daily	P	IVE Update case and member suspense ADABAS files
Batch	RCSB110P	Daily	P	Case Management Updates
Batch	RCSB135P	Daily	P	Process Interstate Input Transactions
Batch	RCSB145P	Daily	P	Process Interstate Output Transactions
Batch	RCSB150P	Daily	P	Process IVA Output Transactions
Batch	RCSB151P	Daily	I	Download (FTP) IVE OCS RETURN FILE
Batch	RCSB152P	Monthly	I	Download (FTP) IVE OCS COLLECTION FILE
Batch	RCSB155P	Daily	P	Daily File Tracking and Archive
Batch	RCSB180P	Daily	O	Transfer Outgoing EFT & Positive Pay Files to Banks
Batch	RCSB182P	Daily	I	Key Bank Check Reconciliation
Batch	RCSB184P	Wed/Sat/Mon	I	Download (FTP) Receipt Imaging Extract Files to LAN
Batch	RCSB185P	Daily	I	Key Bank File Retrieval
Batch	RCSB187P	Daily	P	Process the IVE input from OCS
Batch	RCSB195P	Thu/Sat	P	Process New Hire Transactions
Batch	RCSB213P	Monthly	O	Copy Disbursements File At End Of Month
Batch	RCSB214P	Monthly	P	Tribal TANF: End of Month Closures
Batch	RCSB219P	Monthly	I	Download (FTP) "Outstanding Offsets with Obligation Changes" File
Batch	RCSB245P	Monthly	P	Create Locate Files
Batch	RCSB255P	Monthly	P	Monthly Other State PFD Receipt Reports
Batch	RCSB256P	Quarterly	I	Quarterly Medical Cost Recovery Extract
Batch	RCSB257P	Monthly	I	Monthly FIDM (Financial Institution Data Match) File Extract
Batch	RCSB258P	Quarterly	I	FTP Medical Extract File
Batch	RCSB259P	Monthly	I	FTP Monthly FIDM (Financial Institution Data Match) File Extract
Batch	RCSB270P	Monthly	P	Monthly License Enforcement Eligibility Job
Batch	RCSB280P	Monthly	P	Department of Labor Submissions Tape Generate
Batch	RCSB281P	Monthly	P	Process Department of Labor Master Employer Update
Batch	RCSB284P	Weekly	O	FOP Send
Batch	RCSB285P	Weekly	P	IRS/FOP Process Rejects and create Submission Update
Batch	RCSB290P	Monthly	P	Credit Bureau Reporting Tape
Batch	RCSB297P	Monthly	P	Process IVE Cost of Care (Grants) input from OCS
Batch	RCSB510P	Weekly	P	Copy Incoming FCR Response Files
Batch	RCSB513P	Weekly	I	MSFIDM in
Batch	RCSB514P	Weekly	O	MSFIDM
Batch	RCSB515P	Weekly	P	Process Incoming FCR Responses
Batch	RCSB520P	Weekly	O	Generate Outgoing FCR Transactions
Batch	RCSB561P	Monthly	O	Tribal TANF: Household File Master File Update

Manual/ Batch	Job	Frequency	Input Output Process I/O/P	Purpose
Batch	RCSB563P	On Request	P	TT Closures
Batch	RCSB581P	Daily	P	Tribal TANF: Household File Update: OPENS
Batch	RCSB583P	Daily	P	Tribal TANF: Household File Update: CLOSURES
Batch	RCSB707P	On Request	I	Annual Fish WIDs
Batch	RCSB710P	Yearly	P	Annual Job Creates and Prints 1925A Forms
Batch	RCSB785P	Yearly	P	Set Federal Financial Year
Batch	RCSB860P	Work Days	P	Post Secondary-After ESPCEDP creates file
Batch	RCSB900P	On Request	P	FOP Validation
Batch	RCSB907P	On Request	P	Process Commercial Fisheries Permit File
Batch	RCSB908P	Weekly	P	Process Department of Corrections Response
Batch	RCSB909P	Monthly	P	Process Department of Labor Employer Match
Batch	RCSB910P	Monthly	P	Process Department of Labor Unemployment Match
Batch	RCSB911P	Weekly	P	Process IRS File for Locate
Batch	RCSB912P	On Request	P	Process Commercial Fisheries Vessel File for Locate
Batch	RCSB914P	Weekly	P	Process FOP (IRS) Receipts
Batch	RCSB917P	On Request	P	Process PFD Receipts
Batch	RCSB925P	On Request	P	Create the CSED Extract Files for PFD
Batch	RCSB927P	On Request	P	Process PFD AutoMatch Records into Final Format for PFD Intercept
Batch	RCSB928P	On Request	P	Process PFD Matched Records and the CSED Case Info
Batch	RCSB940P	On Request	P	Outstanding Check Report Special Run
Batch	RCSB941P	On Request	I	State Employee New Hire (IRIS)
Batch	RCSB970P	On Request	P	TTANF Recon
Batch	RCSB971P	On Request	P	CIT TTANF Recon

The RFP describes user access via 3270 emulator software running on PC workstations.

33. Are there any user defined scripts in use for this emulator?

Users have created a number of macros/scripts that would be entirely on their own workstations separate from what the Systems Support group has set up.

34. Are there any user defined spreadsheet or work flow workarounds in use on case worker workstations?

Virtually every Caseworker uses Excel spreadsheets. There are no known work flow workarounds. Workarounds tend to be procedural.

35. Would these scripts or spreadsheet be in scope for the re-platforming project?

No

B. Batch 2 Received 11/8/2016

1. Can you provide details relating to the NSTAR application to be re – platformed. The details may include the following type of information:

- Natural – number of Natural entities and equivalent lines of code i.e. – Programs, sub programs, sub routines, maps, help routines, LDA’s, GDA’s, PDA’s DDM’s
- Similar information relating to other application languages – such as Cobol including method of Adabas access
- Number of Adabas files to be migrated
- Any additional files to be migrated
- Number of JCL’s currently serving the NSTAR environment

Item	Approximate Count
Batch Programs (primarily Natural)	600
Online Programs (primarily Natural)	592
Maps	1553
Production Screens	589
DFIX Screens (Data Fixes by Systems Personnel)	387
User Screens	202
Web Based Programs/modules (Natural)	22
Production Subroutines	38
Production Subprograms	414
COBOL Modules	5
ADABAS Files	119
MS SQL Files/Tables	15

We have approximately 180 batch jobs that run throughout the year.

2. List of Software Ag and other 3rd party products which are part of current NSTAR environment?

Broker, Finalist

3. Details relating to applications interfaced with NSTAR (type of interface, platform etc.) ?

See Section A, #32 above

4. Does the State of Alaska intend to perform User testing itself or will this be part of the activities to be conducted by contractor?

Per Section 5.01.08, the Contractor is expected to develop extensive System, and User Acceptance Test Plans. They are also expected to manage these activities. User Acceptance Testing will be managed by the Contractor using CSSD personnel.

5. Does the state have testing scenarios (both online & batch) that are currently used to test the NSTAR application? Will you be able to share these with us at project time?

No.

6. Is it possible to get a word version of the RFP? (It is easier to navigate.)

It is not the State's normal procedure to send out a word version.

7. Does the state have a particular preference for a specific target language (under .NET) for the migrated/converted NSTAR application?

No.

8. Section 5.02 under Scope of Work says the following: ".....5. Ensure all work related to the migration of customer data from the NSTAR system will be performed on-site in support of security policies. .." Does this include test data that is sanitized ?

No.