

STATE OF ALASKA
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - AMENDMENT NUMBER ONE



Department of Administration
Shared Services of Alaska
333 Willoughby Avenue, 8th Floor
PO Box 110210
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0210

THIS IS NOT AN ORDER

DATE AMENDMENT ISSUED: November 21, 2019

RFI TITLE: Enterprise Data Hub and Service Delivery Platform

This amendment is being issued to answers questions received.

Questions Received:

Q: How many domains/entities is the State wanting to create/master? How many attributes per domain/entity? Has the State identified the definition of each domain/entity?

A: Much like how a database management system (DBMS) allows data schemas and tables to be created, the Semantic Layer (SL) should allow a virtually unlimited number of domains or common vocabularies and entities to be created. Also, In the same way a DBMS allows columns to be added to a table, the SL should allow properties to be added to entities. The definition of the domains will happen as business needs arise. A good example of this would be the introduction of a new federal reporting requirement. The federal agency would define the entities, properties and value constraints to be included in the report, and a State business/data analyst will create the domain that represents a definition for the report.

Q: What is the number and type(s) of data sources to be consumed for MDM? How many unique attributes per source?

A: The MDM module will be fed by application programming interfaces, and the data will be transformed and loaded according to domains within the Semantic Layer. Unique attributes will vary per source, and attributes can come from multiple APIs.

Q: What does the State mean by "provide robust API functionality for all push and pull operations"?

A: Application programming interfaces should allow applications to upload data and retrieve data.

Q: What other user interface requirements, if any, does the State have for MDM?

A: Requirements for this RFI represent a high-level conceptual model only. Outside of the requirements described under the Master Data Management section of this RFI, please describe the capabilities of your MDM module or microservice.

Q: What, if any, data quality objectives/requirements has the State identified?

A: Data quality objectives will be defined on a per-project basis, and will be in alignment with the business goals of future data asset management projects. It is expected that the Semantic Layer (SL) will provide the context necessary to automate portions of the cleansing and transformation processes, and to define the conformity of the data.

Q: Is the State planning to build the APIs? Or is the State looking to vendor(s) to complete that task?

A: The State will build APIs to connect disparate data sources to the hub as the need arises; however, each microservice within the data hub and service delivery platform must have a vendor supported API for integration with the application layer.

Q: Common Vocabulary – Is the DCAT specification and RDF format a requirement or suggested methodology to use?

A: The DCAT specification and RDF format was provided as an example to describe forms of standardized vocabularies for the Semantic Layer (SL).

Q: Business Rules and Business Process Management – Is the purpose of business rules to test the conformance of data or to validate policies?

A: The purpose of business rules and business process management is for separation of concerns in application development. Business rules could be used to validate policies, but data conformance should be defined within the Semantic Layer.