

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) 2022 1000 5143

Development of Online Registration and Management System for Alaskan Grown

Addendum 1

Date of Issue: April 14, 2022

Addendum 1 serves to answer questions received from offerors and extend the solicitation deadline April 28, 2022.

Important Note to Offerors: You must sign and return this page of the addendum document with your bid. Failure to do so will result in the rejection of your bid. Only the RFP terms and conditions referenced in this addendum are being changed. All other terms and conditions of the RFP remain the same. This Addendum 1 is hereby made part of the RFP and is a total of 7 pages.

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COMPANY SUBMITTING BID

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

DATE

Responses to Questions Received by Offerors

Question 1: It seems that the State is seeking a custom developer to build a complete system on State existing technology to fulfill the project scope vs. selecting from many COTS / SaaS solutions available on the market that could meet the agency's business needs. Please elaborate upon why the State opted to go in this direction and how the agency intends to address the risks and/or high ongoing support costs typical of custom software projects.

Answer: The USDA will not allow purchase of software/vendor solutions with the grant funding on this project.

Question 2: Is the State open to receiving proposals from government regulatory software providers whom solution can be deployed and configured to meet the business needs, utilizing a similar tech stack yet hosted by the vendor and made available with a SaaS model? Would a proposal along these lines be deemed non-responsive?

Answer: The USDA will not allow purchase of software/vendor solutions with the grant funding on this project.

Question 3: How did the State determine the cost estimate of \$170,000 - \$190,000 for this project?

Answer: The budget is driven by the funding provided by the grant.

Question 4: What, if any, funding has been budgeted for ongoing support and maintenance for the new system?

Answer: Once the project is completed the Department of Natural Resources will maintain the project.

Question 5: Would the State accept an alternative proposal for a vendor to provide a hosted solution that State IT resources, agency employees, and/or preferred local IT contractor or service provider be trained to configure, extend, and support the solution?

Answer: The USDA will not allow purchase of software/vendor solutions with the grant funding on this project.

Question 6: Are resumes required and do they count toward the 5-page limit?

Answer: Yes, resumes are required. No, the resumes do not count toward the 5 page limit.

Question 7: Please clarify which key personnel should be identified. We understand that we should list the contract manager, the project manager, and the application developer; is that correct?

Answer: Yes, that is correct. The organizational structure of the developer should be provided.

Question 8: What are you looking for in “Proposed Logistics” under the Understanding section of the proposal?

Answer: Location and manner, including measures to protect the security of the State of Alaska that the proposal will utilize to be carried out.

Question 9: What are you looking for in “Computations” under the Statement of Qualifications section of the proposal?

Answer: Who will track, monitor and be responsible for reporting costs, hours and charges. Accounting for costs and spending.

Question 10: Can you clarify what you mean by wanting division staff to be able to modify the system independently, without involving IT resources? What kind of updates would you like to be able to make?

Answer: The Division staff should be able to modify fields within the application independently.

Question 11: Under what scenarios do you anticipate needing to store credit card information?

Answer: If fees are needed to support registration and marketing material purchases, only for identification of the source, such as last 4 digits. DNR applications use the States credit card vendor for processing credit card information and will not accept or store that information beyond the last four digits of the credit card number.

Question 12: Will payments be accepted through this system and if so, in what context?

Answer: Fees would be accepted for registration needed for certain programs and marketing material purchases.

Question 13: Will you provide a mainframe expert and someone to write those integrations?

Answer: The integrations already exist. Experts will be available for questions.

Question 14: What version of TFS do you use and is it supported by Azure?

Answer: TFS 2018 Update 3. No, it is not currently supported by Azure.

Question 15: Do you want the vendor to deploy this to Azure infrastructure and do you have existing Azure infrastructure?

Answer: Yes, the intention is to have the vendor deploy the application to Azure infrastructure. Yes, we do have and existing Azure infrastructure.

Question 16: Can you elaborate on your goals for the marketplace offerings?

Answer: Ability for approved members to access needed marketing library and connect to approve vendors for marketing supplies

Question 17: What do the asterisks after #5 on page 16 refer to?

Answer: These were place in error.

Question 18: Can you clarify what you mean by “provide business intelligence solutions”? Is this simply identifying the appropriate solution for your use?

Answer: The application data should be gathered in such a method that it is compatible with queries for analysis through currently available solutions that SOA has access to such as Power BI and Cognos and supported by DNR OIT.

Question 19: Can you clarify the number of data sources and types of data formats for the data that needs to be converted? How many source systems are there? How many tables or types of data are there in each system?

Answer: The source system would be the application that is developed. The number of tables and types will dependent on purposed fields for the membership application and surveys. This will include data types in both text and numerical formats.

Existing data that will be imported is currently stored in an Access database which includes both numeric and text fields. It can be provided to the vendor by allowing direct access to the database or by excel spreadsheet.

Question 20: Do you expect the vendor to create a custom website design or use an existing design?

Answer: The vendor should create a portal to the system that integrates with either the SOA DNR, Division of Agriculture website or the Alaska Grown website to link to the portal. The State has a Standard Look and Feel template that would be provided for the website design.

Question 21: Do members of the public have to create an account as stipulated in 3.03 General #4 to participate in the marketplace activities described in 3.03 General #10?

Answer: Yes

Question 22: 3.03 General #11 states “Division staff can create, save, and export ad hoc queries/reports.” Is it correct that these actions would be taken at the report platform or database level, not from within the website?

Answer: There must be a provision to provide the ability to query the data from within the website or reporting platform that Division staff are trained and able to access to create reports.

Question 23: Can you clarify what is meant in 3.03 Membership #3, which states “Requirement of email as scanning process before uploading and divisions staff approval.” Is this a request that the email server use independent logic to perform scanning operations?

Answer: Before scanned material can be added by a member, it will need to be sent to Staff for approval via email.

Question 24: RFP Page 22, Sec. 4.01: Will completed RFP attachments provided by the State in the RFP be counted towards the 5-page limit for proposals responses? (i.e., Attachment 2: Certification of Entitlement to the Alaska Bidder Preference and Attachment 3: Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion.)

Answer: No

Question 25: RFP Page 17, Sec. 3.04: In reference to Contract Type, is there a definition or example of variable items?

Answer: Those items, negotiated outside of the RFP agreement that are not within the Scope of Work agreed upon at contracting.

Question 26: RFP Page 10, Sec 3.02: In reference to Contract Term and Work Schedule, could you please confirm the timeline for this project is 18 months? Concern is that the budget is not reflective of the timeline.

Answer: The project must be completed within 18 months but may not require that length of time.

Question 27: RFP Page 4, Sec. 1.03: In reference to Deadline for Submittal, could we request an extension?

Answer: See Change #1 to the Solicitation

Question 28: Does this entire solution need to be developed using only custom code (e.g. ASP.Net, C#) or could parts of the solution be developed using platform tools, such as Microsoft 365 (Power Apps, Power BI, etc.)?

Answer: The System should be built primarily using custom code, however utilizing platform tools that are currently licensed and supported by the State, like Power BI, is allowable. These features must be integrated into the system.

Question 29: Are there existing API's (RESTful web services) for the integration with mainframe systems?

Answer: Yes, integrations are available via API or Java Class.

Question 30: Will SOA provide Development, Test and Production environments?

Answer: Yes.

Question 31: Is there a preferred DevOps tool (Azure, Jira)?

Answer: Team Foundation Server 2018 Update 3.

Question 32: Are business workflows already documented?

Answer: No, there is a business analysis that is available to identify needed workflows.

Question 33: Which methods of notifications are required (SMS, email, etc.)?

Answer: Email is required for notification. Future option for SMS is considered but not part of the RFP

Question 35: Can third-party .Net components (e.g. Synfusion, Telerik) be used?

Answer: No, The USDA will not allow purchase of software/vendor solutions with the grant funding on this project.

Question 36: What documentation is required as a deliverable, if any?

Answer: Documentation of process used, training documents for staff.

Question 37: Will there be a single “Product Owner” to work with for this project?

Answer: The Department of Natural Resources, will be the product owner, specifically the Division of Agriculture.

Changes to the RFP

Change 1: The deadline for receipt of proposals has been changed from April 22, 2022 to April 28, 2022 at 2:00 PM prevailing Alaska time.

End of Addendum 1