

ASA.RFP.07012010 Proposer Questions

Posted on 10/16/2009

Question ID:	1
Proposer Name:	Synch-Solutions
Date and Time Question Asked:	Thu 9/17/2009 11:13 AM
Question:	Good morning – in the RFP it refers numerous times to the RFP Cover Sheet that should be the first page of each separate document. I have not seen a Cover Sheet provided in the RFP documents. Is this something we are to create ourselves or is there an official Cover Sheet provided by your office?
AUTHORITY Answer:	A Cover Sheet has not been provided by the AUTHORITY . A general Cover Sheet should be developed by the PROPOSER with all requested information as described in Section 5.1.5.
Question ID:	2
Proposer Name:	Education Networks of America
Date and Time Question Asked:	Thu 9/17/2009 2:33 PM
Question:	Will you be posting a list of vendors who have indicated their intent to respond to the RFP? We have been involved in numerous public procurements where this is provided to facilitate partnership opportunities. If not, is it acceptable and in compliance with the procurement process for us to request a copy of this list?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The AUTHORITY does not intend to provide a copy of the vendors who merely indicated their intent to respond to the RFP, but the AUTHORITY will post a copy of the Mandatory Bidder's Conference attendee list on the website. This list will be posted on the same date as the AUTHORITY answers to the PROPOSER questions as defined in Section 2.
Question ID:	3
Proposer Name:	Red Salsa Technologies, Inc.
Date and Time Question Asked:	Thu 9/17/2009 3:34 PM
Question:	The RFP has a mandatory bidders conference on Oct 9 th ,

	2009. Does it mean, not attending this conference would disqualify interested party? We would not be allowed to continue to bid on this RFP if we were not attend this mandatory bidders conference?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Only PROPOSERS who have attended the <u>Mandatory Bidder's Conference</u> can submit proposals as defined in Section 4.2.
Question ID:	4
Proposer Name:	Critical Technologies, LLC.
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/14/2009 10:54 AM
Question:	I'm very interested in this bid. However, buried somewhere in the ~300 pages of the RFP is the actual proposal of what needs to be bid upon. I have yet to decipher what it is exactly that the RFP is for. So, if you could clarify that for me, I would greatly appreciate it.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The RFP indicates the sections that require a response as defined in Section 1.2.
Question ID:	5
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	RFP#07012010, Introduction, pages 1-1 thru 1-3 and Proforma Contract, Page 9-1, Paragraphs 9A & 9B; documentation does not specify the "type contract"; what is the type of contract? If this contract is FFP at what "Unit of Measure" shall it be priced?
AUTHORITY Answer:	This RFP stipulates a professional service contract as defined in Section 1.1. This RFP includes a pro forma contract as defined in Section 9. The final contract will be subject to negotiations following the award as defined in Section 6.4.5.
Question ID:	6
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM

Question:	General Question – Under Alabama State Statute giving consideration to DBE companies the following is typically found in State RFP’s. Will the following language be added to this RFP #01012010? “In accordance with Alabama State statute, consideration will be given to Alabama-based, minority or women owned businesses. Consideration may be given to a PROPOSER with proactive practices for hiring and retaining underrepresented groups or to a PROPOSER offering optional job classifications to increase competition within those classifications”.
AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 1.6. The AUTHORITY will comply with all statutes regarding consideration to DBE companies.
Question ID:	7
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Questions are due by 28 Sep 09; the first opportunity to hear the States response to our questions will be at the bidders conference on 9 Oct 09; and the formal answers will be released on 20 Oct 09; which give the PROPOSER 9 days to make a bid decision, write their proposal, and submit it to the State. Request that all formal responses to questions be provided no later than the date of the conference and request a 30 day extension to the proposal due date.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The Deadline for Submitting Proposals has been extended to Thursday, November 12, 2009.
Question ID:	8
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM

Question:	Since part of the contract will be funded with Federal funds, is this procurement subject to Federal procurement regulations? If so, please provide the citation.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The procurement will comply with all applicable Federal and State statutes, rules, and regulations.
Question ID:	9
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Is this procurement subject to the provisions of Section 41-16-72, Alabama Code?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The procurement will comply with all applicable Federal and State statutes, rules, and regulations including Section 41-16-72, Alabama Code.
Question ID:	10
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Is the Authority subject to the provisions of Section 41-16-20, et seq., Alabama Code, in the leasing or purchasing of equipment?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The procurement will comply with all applicable Federal and State statutes, rules, and regulations. This RFP is for professional services only and is covered under the provisions of Section 41-16-72, Alabama Code.
Question ID:	11
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM

Question:	RFP#07012010, at paragraph 8.4, Table 2, Page 8-3, is the breakout of cost shown "by month" or a total for each contract year?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Section 8.4 Table 2 – Sub-Category Cost Detail Format requires a cost breakdown for each contract year as defined in the column headings identifying annual E-rate eligible costs and E-rate ineligible costs.
Question ID:	12
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	RFP#07012010, Section 10.16, Page 10-16-1, who are the current vendors / providers of the network backbone? Are the costs for these services part of our cost estimate or are the services provided by the State or possibly under a State Schedule?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost estimate of the PROPOSER to provide all network services as required in this RFP. The PROPOSER is free to use any network providers as part of their cost estimate subject to Section 3.13.
Question ID:	13
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	RFP#07012010, who are the broadband providers for each SLD location supporting the network? How are we to price this effort without this information?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost estimate of the PROPOSER to provide all network services as required in this RFP. The PROPOSER is free to use any network providers as part of their cost estimate subject to

	Section 3.13.
Question ID:	14
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	RFP#07012010, when is the next scheduled hardware and equipment “refresh” / “upgrade” to occur?
AUTHORITY Answer:	<p>Hardware and equipment “refresh” / “upgrade” occurrences are based on client demand and technological advancements and not on regular schedules.</p> <p>The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.</p>
Question ID:	15
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	RFP#07012010, Section 9 of the RFP is the PROFORMA CONTRACT as indicated at paragraph 1.2, page 1-2. As a PROFORMA document we assume this is provided for information purposes only and should not be included in any RFP response on our part; please confirm this is correct and that the requirements of the RFP (less Section 9) “super-cede / trump” any language or conflicts stated in the Section 9 PROFORMA CONTRACT.
AUTHORITY Answer:	Section 5.3.7 states that, as part of the Technical Proposal, PROPOSERS are required to respond to the requirements as defined in Section 4 – Special Requirements and Section 9 - pro forma contract.

Question ID:	16
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Does the Alabama Department of Finance currently duplicate any of the services the Authority provides to its end users?
AUTHORITY Answer:	This question does not pertain to the current RFP.
Question ID:	17
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Can you provide the breakdown of the amounts of money the Authority expended under the current contract for services and the amounts expended for equipment? If you cannot provide specific amounts, please provide estimates or estimated percentages?
AUTHORITY Answer:	This question does not pertain to the current RFP. The total contract amount will not exceed "written dollar amount" for the contract term of 6 years as defined in Section 9.C.1.
Question ID:	18
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Does Alabama law permit a liquidated damages provision in a professional services contract when the provision appears to be a penalty? If so, what is the measure of damages?

AUTHORITY Answer:	The procurement will comply with all applicable Federal and State statutes, rules, and regulations.
Question ID:	19
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Does this RFP request any goods or services that are not being currently provided by the incumbent vendor? If so, please explain.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.
Question ID:	20
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Provide a listing of all currently in-place hardware and/or software that a succeeding vendor will be expected to purchase at Fair Market Value? Do you currently know the Fair Market Value of the hardware/software? If so, please provide. If you do not have a complete listing of hardware/software a succeeding vendor must purchase and/or the Fair Market Value, how can a vendor propose a price?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Listing of all current hardware and software is defined in Section 10 – RFP Attachments. At this time, the AUTHORITY does not know the specific Fair Market Value of the hardware/software.
Question ID:	21

Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	If the contract resulting from this RFP is a professional services contract, how can a vendor purchase a performance bond? What is the measure of compliance in the provision of a professional service; would it be the satisfaction of the Authority?
AUTHORITY Answer:	This RFP stipulates a professional service contract as defined in Section 1.1. The Performance Bond as defined in Section 4.4 covers all services provided under this RFP. The measure of compliance in the provision of the professional service contract is defined in Section 9.E.4.
Question ID:	22
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Has there been a recent audit of the Network Security? If so, please provide a copy so that proposers may adequately address this requirement.
AUTHORITY Answer:	Any Network Security Audit is confidential. The current RFP requires an audit of Network Security as defined in Section 4.5 and Section 9-C.7.
Question ID:	23
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Are the negotiations you suggest in Section 6.4.5 referring to contract terms and conditions, contract pricing,

	professional services provided through the contract or equipment provided through the contract, or other contract provisions?
AUTHORITY Answer:	This RFP stipulates a professional service contract as defined in Section 1.1. This RFP includes a pro forma contract as defined in Section 9. The final contract will be subject to negotiations following the award as defined in Section 6.4.5.
Question ID:	24
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Does the incumbent vendor claim any proprietary interest in any function they perform under the current supercomputer contract? If so, please identify and explain.
AUTHORITY Answer:	This RFP requires that any transition of services shall occur without loss of the level of service or performance provided by the AUTHORITY . The PROPOSER is expected to provide an acceptable level of service defined under the RFP during the transition period.
Question ID:	25
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Will there be security clearance requirements on the successful proposer? If so, please explain.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP.

	Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.
Question ID:	26
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	RFP#07012010, in the Proforma Contract at paragraph C.3.2, Page 9C-6, there is a liquidated damages clause where the contractor must credit the Authority if they fail to meet Mean Time To Repair (MTTR) metrics. Based upon our recent facility tour we learned that the "internal" tracking system of work orders was PROPRIETARY to the current Contractor; will the AUTHORITY acquire USE RIGHTS for the new Contractor for trouble ticket tracking or must a new Contractor start from scratch? If we start from scratch will there be a grace period before the subject damages are assessed? Additionally, in reference to the liquidated damage assessment, how is the contractor supposed to determine a daily credit amount for 3 days network service based at the "Little Red School House" if their network service provider is not given in the RFP? Will the AUTHORITY provide all the internet providers supporting the system for pricing purposes?
AUTHORITY Answer:	<p>This RFP requires that any transition of services shall occur without loss of the level of service or performance provided by the AUTHORITY.</p> <p>The PROPOSER is expected to provide an acceptable level of service defined under the RFP during the transition period.</p>
Question ID:	27
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM

Asked:	
Question:	RFP#07012010, how long (number of days) can a new Contractor expect to work during the uncompensated transition period and what would be the expected level of effort (e.g. 120 days and 4 personnel)? How long is the formal Transition Period? Paragraph 4.6, page 4-4, indicates work could start as early as 120 days prior to contract award / contract start? Is it the AUTHORITY's intent that the contractor phase-in be without compensation for up to 120 days prior to the start of work?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 9.E.9.
Question ID:	28
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	RFP#07012010, Page 4-4, paragraph 4.6, states that the SUCCEEDING CONTRACTOR may have the option to acquire hardware / software from the CURRENT CONTRACTOR; what hardware / software are you referring too? Please provide a detailed list of this hardware with the age of the equipment or the purchase date and the net asset value or the amortized costs?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Listing of all current hardware and software is defined in Section 10 – RFP Attachments. The AUTHORITY will not provide a list of all current hardware with its estimated Fair Market Value.
Question ID:	29
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	RFP#07012010, paragraph 3.11, page 3-5, states that the

	AUTHORITY reserves the right to request an Oral Presentation. Given the general lack of instructions of the form / format and time allowed for the presentation and the language of this paragraph it appears to be discussions between the Contractor and the AUTHORITY. If the Oral Presentations do not occur what happens to the 11 evaluation points assigned to this evaluation factor (Section 6.1, Page 6-1)?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Oral presentations will be held at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee and PROPOSERS will be provided instructions as to the format and content of the presentation. If the Evaluation Committee decides not to hold oral presentations, no points will be awarded to any PROPOSER as defined in Section 6.1.
Question ID:	30
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	RFP#07012010, Paragraph C-4, C-5, C-6, Page 9-4 the AUTHORITY indicates the Contractor is to invoice, showing all possible discounts, even if a SLD has not yet been approved for that discount; please confirm this is correct? How will the Contractor be made whole should payment via E-Rate be denied because the SLD is not yet approved in the system?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 9.C.4.
Question ID:	31
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	RFP#07012010, do the Section 10 Certifications and

	Acknowledgements of the RFP go into our Technical response to the RFP or into the Cost Volume?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The responses required for Attachment 10.2, 10.3, and 10.4 should be included in the Proposer Qualifications and Experience Proposal as outlined in Section 5.2. All other information provided in Section 10 is provided for informational purposes to the PROPOSER to develop the Cost Proposal and Technical Proposal.
Question ID:	32
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Request that copies of any current Service Level Agreements (SLAs) be made available for review?
AUTHORITY Answer:	This question does not pertain to the current RFP.
Question ID:	33
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Will a listing of all hardware and software with current dollar value and age of equipment be made available to the succeeding contractor from the incumbent 120 days prior to current contract expiration?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 9.E.11.2
Question ID:	34
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM

Question:	What does the Performance Bond cover? What are the acceptance criteria for successful performance? If this is a Services Contract as defined by Alabama bid law, why is the Authority requiring a performance bond?
AUTHORITY Answer:	<p>This RFP stipulates a professional service contract as defined in Section 1.1.</p> <p>The Performance Bond as defined in Section 4.4 covers all services provided under this RFP.</p> <p>The measure of compliance in the provision of the professional service contract is defined in Section 9.E.4.</p>
Question ID:	35
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Request that provisions for additional years of experience or Business Degrees be allowed to be substituted in some instances for B.S. degrees? For example, we have one candidate for the Project Manager position who has been the project manager operating and maintaining a high performance computing center for the federal government for several years who has a B.A. Degree in Business. One could hardly question his ability to manage this facility for the State of Alabama.
AUTHORITY Answer:	While there is no Project Manager specified in the RFP, the RFP Evaluation Committee will evaluate all candidates based on the requirements of the Job Classifications as defined in Section 10.21 and will score at their discretion.
Question ID:	36
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM

Asked:	
Question:	Management Information Systems (MIS) degrees are frequently awarded as BSBA (business) degrees instead of engineering, science or mathematics. Will the Authority entertain these types of degrees as equivalent in some labor categories?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The RFP Evaluation Committee will evaluate all candidates based on the requirements of the Job Classifications as defined in Section 10.21 and will score at their discretion.
Question ID:	37
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	What is the purpose of identifying the status of the Proposer? Will special consideration be given to Proposers who are recognized as Small Disadvantaged or Minority-owned Businesses by State or the Federal Government as has been in other State Contracts?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The procurement will comply with all applicable Federal and State statutes, rules, and regulations. Refer to Section 1.6 and Section 5.2.3.18.
Question ID:	38
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	If subcontractors are proposed as a part of the Proposer's team, can that subcontractor's past performance be used as a part of the Proposer's response to the RFP?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The AUTHORITY will consider past performance of subcontractors used as a part of the PROPOSER'S

	response. Refer to Section 5.2.3.14.
Question ID:	39
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	As a part of the Proposer's Organizational Chart and personnel listing, names and resumes are required for all proposed employees. This requirement is contradictory to the Pro Forma contract paragraph A.1.1.3 which requires the names of the individual persons who will fill the two most senior positions and analyst responsible for E-Rate administration. Professional resumes must be included for these individuals and for any other individuals whom the contractor elects to identify. It appears that the requirement to submit all names of personnel assigned to the contract, and the Authority having the ability to approve any person assigned to the contract, could be interpreted as personal services which are not allowed under the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR).
AUTHORITY Answer:	<p>PROPOSERS are required to respond as required in all sections in the RFP.</p> <p>The AUTHORITY is requesting that resumes must be provided for all Professional Services Job Titles as required in Section 5.2.3.12 and Section A.1.1.3.</p> <p>RFP Attachment 10.19, Professional Services Job Titles as referenced in Section 5.2.3.12, should read RFP Attachment <u>10.20</u>, Professional Services Job Titles.</p>
Question ID:	40
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	The Pro Forma contract states that the Contractor must

	state by name the personnel for the two most Senior positions and the E-rate analyst responsible for administration. Are these the only resumes required to be submitted in the response? This seems to conflict the instructions in 5.2.3.12.
AUTHORITY Answer:	<p>PROPOSERS are required to respond as required in all sections in the RFP.</p> <p>The AUTHORITY is requesting that resumes must be provided for all Professional Services Job Titles as required in Section 5.2.3.12 and Section A.1.1.3.</p> <p>RFP Attachment 10.19, Professional Services Job Titles as referenced in Section 5.2.3.12, should read RFP Attachment <u>10.20</u>, Professional Services Job Titles.</p>
Question ID:	41
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Will the Authority provide a representative listing of Trouble tickets by customer supported (i.e. a particular school system)? Will the Authority provide a representative listing of the number of trouble tickets in a given period that require travel to support? Since the Pro Forma contract states in paragraph C.7 that travel, meals and lodging is not a reimbursable cost, it is imperative that a potential bidder know the extent of travel in order to price the effort. Will the Authority provide a representative listing of the portion of Trouble tickets that require escalation to Level 2 and Level 3 support?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 9-C.3.3.5.
Question ID:	42
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation

Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Recommend Statewide Networking be changed to Wide Area Networking.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.
Question ID:	43
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Recommend the first bullet be changed from Academic Researchers to Scientific Researchers.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.
Question ID:	44
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	The RFP language states in part "the PROPOSER will manage the project, ensure completion of the scope of services, and accomplish required objectives of this RFP". This language lends one to believe that this is a completion contract and not a services contract. Is that correct?
AUTHORITY Answer:	This RFP stipulates a professional service contract as defined in Section 1.1.
Question ID:	45

Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	There is a requirement for the Contractor to provide audited financial statements to the AUTHORITY within 90 days of the end of the Contractor's fiscal year. Has the incumbent contractor been complying with this requirement?
AUTHORITY Answer:	This question does not pertain to the current RFP.
Question ID:	46
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	The proforma contract requires a transition period and does not provide a start date for this period. Without a formal start date pricing this effort is difficult at best. What are the dates for the transition period?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The transition period will begin at a date sufficient to maintain the current level of services. Refer to Section 9.E.9.
Question ID:	47
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	We assume this Intellectual Property Rights Clause is in the existing contract. If so, will the software developed by the incumbent that is being used for help desk management and network management be made available at no cost to the succeeding contractor?
AUTHORITY Answer:	This RFP requires that any transition of services shall occur without loss of the level of service or performance

	<p>provided by the AUTHORITY.</p> <p>The PROPOSER is expected to provide an acceptable level of service defined under the RFP during the transition period.</p>
Question ID:	48
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/18/2009 2:36 PM
Question:	Please provide details of any property and casualty insurance coverage that the Authority provides for the Contractor supplied equipment at the Huntsville site as well as at the remote network locations.
AUTHORITY Answer:	<p>The AUTHORITY is insured through the State of Alabama Department of Finance – Division of Risk Management and will provide coverage for CONTRACTOR supplied equipment provided under this contract.</p> <p>This coverage will be incorporated in the contract between the AUTHORITY and the successful PROPOSER.</p>
Question ID:	49
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/25/2009 8:19 AM
Question:	RFP#07012010, General Question – If a vendor different from the incumbent is successful and is required to purchase the equipment now used to support the networks, will the new vendor be able to continue to lease the same equipment to the Authority? If so, will the new vendor be able to charge a price it determines for the lease of the equipment? Should the prices for leasing the equipment to the Authority be included in the proposal?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The succeeding CONTRACTOR is not required to purchase the equipment. This RFP requires that any transition of services shall occur without loss of the level

	<p>of service or performance provided by the AUTHORITY.</p> <p>This RFP stipulates a professional service contract as defined in Section 1.1.</p> <p>The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.</p>
Question ID:	50
Proposer Name:	InfoPro Corporation
Date and Time Question Asked:	Fri 9/25/2009 8:19 AM
Question:	RFP#07012010, General Question – Since the incumbent vendor has already charged the Authority the purchase price of at least some the equipment, how does the Authority alleviate the unfair advantage of the incumbent since they have already recouped the cost of the equipment from the Authority?
AUTHORITY Answer:	<p>This RFP stipulates a professional service contract as defined in Section 1.1.</p> <p>The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.</p>
Question ID:	51
Proposer Name:	Nuvox
Date and Time Question Asked:	Wed 9/23/2009 9:26 AM
Question:	Is it possible to bid for all voice/data services with the exception of cellular?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.
Question ID:	52
Proposer Name:	CSC - Engineering Solutions and Technologies Division

Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/28/2009 1:30 PM
Question:	RFP Section 4.6 Current Infrastructure: RFP Section 4.6 Current Infrastructure: Regarding current contractor hardware and software, does the phrase "succeeding CONTRACTOR may have the option of acquiring the hardware/software from the current CONTRACTOR" mean that the successful offeror may, at its discretion, purchase the existing program hardware and software from the incumbent contractor at the then fair market value of said items. Please confirm.
AUTHORITY Answer:	If the CONTRACTOR agrees to sell the existing program hardware/software, the successful PROPOSER does have the option to purchase existing hardware/software from the CONTRACTOR and this transaction would be solely between the CONTRACTOR and the successful PROPOSER .
Question ID:	53
Proposer Name:	CSC - Engineering Solutions and Technologies Division
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/28/2009 1:30 PM
Question:	Pro Forma Contract, Section 9 D.22 Most Favored Nation Status. Is it a correct understanding that this clause requires the contractor to provide to the Alabama Supercomputer Authority for services rendered under the resultant contract, the same pricing it provides other customers for same services under the same requirements?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 9.D.22.
Question ID:	54
Proposer Name:	CSC - Engineering Solutions and Technologies Division
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/28/2009 1:30 PM
Question:	RFP Section 3.22. A publically traded company is considered Non-Public based on the terms of its incorporation. As such, financial and pricing data provided with the proposal shall be protected as Confidential or Company Proprietary data. Is this correct?

AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 3.22.
Question ID:	55
Proposer Name:	CSC - Engineering Solutions and Technologies Division
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/28/2009 1:30 PM
Question:	Attachment 9-C Para C.2.2. Does ASA require that the contractor provide for four Layer-3 QoS queues per client for both directions on each client circuit in order to meet ACCESS distance learning requirements?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The CONTRACTOR will provide a QoS implementation to accommodate ACCESS traffic within AREN. Refer to Section 9-C.2.2
Question ID:	56
Proposer Name:	CSC - Engineering Solutions and Technologies Division
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/28/2009 1:30 PM
Question:	Attachment 9-C Para C.1. Does ASA require that the contractor manage SLR/SOX, Internet2, and National Lambda Rail connectivity and services?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The CONTRACTOR is required to coordinate associated SoX provisioning and maintenance with the SoX Network Operations Center (NOC). The CONTRACTOR will ensure I2 and NLR routes are available to AUTHORITY clients as appropriate. Refer to Section 9-C.1.
Question ID:	57
Proposer Name:	CSC - Engineering Solutions and Technologies Division
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/28/2009 1:30 PM
Question:	Attachment 9-C Para C.9 Does ASA require that the contractor provide these content filtering services?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The AUTHORITY requires the CONTRACTOR to provide all content filtering services as referenced in Section 9-C.9 and Section 9-C.2.2.4.
Question ID:	58

Proposer Name:	CSC - Engineering Solutions and Technologies Division
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/28/2009 1:30 PM
Question:	Attachment 9-D Para D.1.9.1.b Does ASA require ISDN support for the MCU services required? Does ASA also require that proposers support H.323 and network Quality of Service throughout the state in addition to services, management, and maintenance of the MCU?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The AUTHORITY requires the CONTRACTOR to provide a video conferencing Bridge (MCU) that can support both H.320 (ISDN) and H.323 standards. Refer to Section 9-D.1.9.1, RFP Attachment 10.7, and RFP Attachment 10.26.
Question ID:	59
Proposer Name:	BCI-IT
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/28/2009 7:19 PM
Question:	In the financial section, we want verify that instead of submitting an official Audit of BCI-IT, that the ASC will accept a letter from our creditor that states that BCI-IT has a million dollar credit line.
AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 5.2.2.5.3
Question ID:	60
Proposer Name:	BCI-IT
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/28/2009 7:19 PM
Question:	We want to verify what type of discount they are looking for for any support that we will provide for customers on the AREN network.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.
Question ID:	61

Proposer Name:	BCI-IT
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mon 9/28/2009 7:19 PM
Question:	We are supposed to support the Accounting software and was wondering if we will need to provide full software support, source code customization, etc.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.
Question ID:	62
Proposer Name:	CSC - Engineering Solutions and Technologies Division
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	Referencing the AREN principal route layout in Contract Attachment 9-C, Section C.2, we noted that the major network hubs have multiple connections to each other. And we assume this is for path diversity. Do you require that connections between these major network hubs be provisioned over separate physical circuits, taking separate physical paths where feasible to protect the path diversity of this design?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The AUTHORITY requires proposals that provide an enhanced level of provider and path diversity, fail-over, and recovery capability. Refer to Section 9-C.2.
Question ID:	63
Proposer Name:	Apptis
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	You limit the number of people as bidders to people who attend this meeting. Does that also limit the number of

	partners that you can partner with, or can you partner with a nonattende?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The prime PROPOSER for services defined in this RFP was required to attend the Mandatory Bidder's Conference on 10/09/09. This does not limit the number of partners or subcontractors the prime PROPOSER may use to provide all services as defined in this RFP. Refer to Section 3.13, Section 5.2.3.14, and Section 9.D.6.
Question ID:	64
Proposer Name:	BCI-IT
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	I just have a couple of questions. One would be in the RFP, there is a reference to the winning PROPOSER will get 1400 square feet to have their staff occupy. And I was just wondering, on the number of staff requirements, 1400 square feet may not be enough to house all of our staff there. Would we have the option to either lease more space from the AUTHORITY , or do you expect us to just lease our space outside of the AUTHORITY complex?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The AUTHORITY will provide 14,000 square feet as defined in Section 4.3.1.
Question ID:	65
Proposer Name:	BCI-IT
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	You had mentioned that there was a tour of the facility in one of the questions, that they had a – had conducted a tour of the facility. And I was wondering if that was still available.
AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 2.

Question ID:	66
Proposer Name:	Information Transport Solutions
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	I have several questions. The first one is Attachment 9-A, Section A.1, Page 9A-1, states that title to all hardware and associated software utilized by the current CONTRACTOR and identified in this RFP can become the property of the succeeding CONTRACTOR . It will be the responsibility of the successful CONTRACTOR to maintain, replace and/or upgrade identified hardware as necessary. My question is will the expiration of any maintenance contracts on current hardware and software be made available prior to the bid date, or should we assume all maintenance contracts will have expired upon the conclusion of the current professional services contract?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The PROPOSER may assume that all maintenance contracts on current hardware and software will expire upon conclusion of the current contract. The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.
Question ID:	67
Proposer Name:	Information Transport Solutions
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	My next question, Attachment 10.21, page 10.21-2, senior network engineer, operations-wise, ADB certification required. There is no ADB optical equipment listed anywhere in the RFP. Will equivalent certification in optical technology be accepted?

AUTHORITY Answer:	The RFP Evaluation Committee will evaluate all candidates based on the requirements of the Professional Services Job Descriptions as defined in Section 10.21 and will score at their discretion.
Question ID:	68
Proposer Name:	Information Transport Solutions
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	And RFP Attachment 10.6, page 10.6-1, HPC hardware services. Is this hardware owned by the current CONTRACTOR to be available to the successful PROPOSER ?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Under the current contract, the succeeding CONTRACTOR shall have the option of purchasing the hardware/software at the then "Fair Market Value".
Question ID:	69
Proposer Name:	Information Transport Solutions
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	3.18, licensure, we'd ask for some clarification if possible on the requirement for applicable business and professional license, what they might include.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The successful PROPOSER must be registered with the Alabama Secretary of State, the Alabama Department of Revenue, and hold all necessary State, County, and City business licenses. The scope of services required by the AUTHORITY is defined in the RFP. Any proposal should reflect the ability and cost to provide such services.

Question ID:	70
Proposer Name:	Information Transport Solutions
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	I also have two questions in regard to Section 10, the RFP Attachment 10.8 as well as 10.16 and Section C1.1. Specific addresses are needed to adequately identify hub sites for the AREN hub. And we would request a point of contact perhaps building on a site survey opportunity for those core hub sites and possibly receive some additional follow-up information for some of the other major sites listed in 10.8.
AUTHORITY Answer:	The core hub sites are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of South Alabama • State of Alabama Capitol Complex • University of Alabama at Birmingham • Alabama Supercomputer Center
Question ID:	71
Proposer Name:	BCI-IT
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	I wanted to just verify that if the Telco equipment and the PBX equipment will follow under the winning CONTRACTOR'S responsibility to maintain, or will they have to provision new accounts within that system?
AUTHORITY Answer:	These services are not defined by the scope of services in the current RFP.
Question ID:	72
Proposer Name:	BCI-IT

Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	I just wanted to verify that the purchase of hardware that you've asked us for the winning CONTRACTOR to absorb, will we be able to lease it back to the AUTHORITY ? And I just want to also verify that it's the list of hardware that you provided at the end of the RFP.
AUTHORITY Answer:	This RFP stipulates a professional service contract as defined in Section 1.1. All cost associated with the scope of services under this RFP are billed as professional services.
Question ID:	73
Proposer Name:	Information Transport Solutions
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	Section 4.4 states that in lieu of a performance bond, a surety deposit in the same amount listed above may be submitted if approved by the AUTHORITY prior to the signing of the contract. What forms of deposit would be acceptable? Would the Authority consider an alternate surety bond source?
AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 4.4, Section 9.E.4, and RFP Attachment 10.3.
Question ID:	74
Proposer Name:	Information Transport Solutions
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	Section 5.2.2.5.4 states, A statement indicating that federal income tax payments are current must be included. Whom should issue the statement, the IRS or a signed statement from the PROPOSER ?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The AUTHORITY requires a statement signed by an authorized agent of a financial institution or by a company

	officer empowered to bind the PROPOSER .
Question ID:	75
Proposer Name:	Information Transport Solutions
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	Section 5.2.2.5.5 states, If a PROPOSER is currently operating in the state of Alabama, a statement indicating that the Alabama state income, payroll, and sales taxes are current must be included. The question is whom should issue the statement, State of Alabama or a signed statement from the PROPOSER ?
AUTHORITY Answer:	The AUTHORITY requires a "Certificate of Good Standing" from the Alabama Department of Revenue.
Question ID:	76
Proposer Name:	Information Transport Solutions
Date and Time Question Asked:	Mandatory Bidder's Conference 10/09/09
Question:	<p>Last week at USAC training I attended in Atlanta, Georgia, USAC stated that educational service agencies must clearly identify themselves as either the applicant or service provider, but cannot function as both due to potential conflicts.</p> <p>Can you please clarify the role of ASC in this RFP and how they plan to avoid potential conflicts that may raise concerns about FCC rules that require applicants to ensure a fair and open bidding process?</p>
AUTHORITY Answer:	Refer to Section 9-C.11.