Maryland State Retirement Agency (MSRA)
TORFP# G20B4400002
SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT STAFFING SUPPORT
Place of Performance: Sun Trust Building, 120 East Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
Questions Due: 2/07/2014 by 4pm.
Proposals Due: 2/13/2014 by 4PM.

Questions:

1. Is it a fair assumption that all hardware and software needed to work will be provided by agency? If yes, what should we list in the Proposed Tools section of the response?

All hardware and software is provided by the Agency. Unless there is some tool that the vendor wishes to introduce, there should be no tools proposed. I believe that this is template language in the TORFP.

2. What is the proposed methodology in a Staffing Augmentation services, as requested in 3.2.1.A.1 Executive Summary, and how different it is from 3.2.1.A.2 Staffing Plan?

This is template language in the TORFP. It relates to systems development methodology and SDLC. The term as presented in 3.2.1.A.2 may be ignored. The Staffing Plan relates to the process that is being proposed for providing staff, rather than systems.

3. What is the current state of the MPAS application? The team currently working, if any, has it achieved the initially planned objectives? What are the big ticket items that are planned for the system? Does MSRA plan to move to an ERP system in the near future?

MPAS became the Agency's system of record / production system for pension administration in August 2010. MPAS fully achieved its objectives. There are numerous "big ticket items" being considered for MPAS, but the Agency is still discussing them internally and is not disclosing any further information. We are not quite sure what is encompassed in an "ERP system" as envisioned by the question, but the short answer is that the Agency is considering a whole host of initiatives in its IT Steering Committee, but is not disclosing any further information.

4. Section 2.4 mentions "Documentation exists for some, … ",has MSRA planned a Transition of information, given that there are many systems in the Agency, and with a limited documentation.

The Agency has its own personnel in the Systems Development area and is not wholly dependent on any given contractor personnel for any specific production application. Therefore, the transition should be reasonably accommodated, in the Agency's determination.

5. Section 4.3.B states "Qualified TO Proposals will be invited to make presentations …", is it presenting the proposed team members for an Oral Interview? Let us know if it is not.

There is no separate planned personnel interview process. The Agency will evaluate personnel based on information contained on the resumes / credentials submitted and on the content of the oral presentations given. As stated in Section 2.4, "All Master Contractors [as amended to apply only to those susceptible for award] and proposed staff will be required to make an oral presentation…." Therefore, should an Offeror be asked to come in for orals, it is expected that named team members will

also be present. Should that be logistically impossible, the Agency will consider (but is not currently committing to permitting) alternatives such as video or audio conferencing to involve personnel, noting that it is more challenging to assess an individual should that person not be physically present.

6. Is there any incumbent company currently providing this service?

Systems Development supplemental staffing is currently provided by Computer Aid, Inc. (CAI) and its subcontractor AQUAS, Inc. Speculating on the subtext of the question, the Agency notes that the supplemental staffing contract prior to the current contract was awarded to a different party; therefore, as noted in the Pre-Bid Conference (transcript being distributed), the Agency does not feel that incumbency has represented a strong advantage in the past. Each proposal submission and presentation will be evaluated objectively using a competitive procurement process.

7. If there is an incumbent currently providing these services, how many resources from the incumbent company are currently working?

The existing complement from CAI / AQUAS is two personnel. This level of staffing has varied over the term of the current contract, and the staffing level may vary looking in to the future.

8. Is incumbent company eligible to bid on this opportunity?

Yes.

9. If there is an incumbent, isn't that there resources would have an undue advantage over the competition?

The TORFP does not require or prefer familiarity with existing Agency applications. As stated above, in response to Question 6, each proposal submission and presentation will be evaluated objectively using a competitive procurement process.