

**Q&A Set #4 to
Request for Proposals (RFP)
Statewide Public Safety Wireless Communications System
RFP #060B9800036
October 1, 2008**

Ladies/Gentlemen:

The Department of Information Technology received the following questions by e-mail for the above referenced RFP, and they are answered below for all Offerors:

110. Price Sheets – F4; F4 – Equipment and Accessories:

Base Station/Repeater: Would the State verify that for this line item, vendors are to quote 700 MHz trunked repeaters that comply with RFP section 3.3.2.1?

Answer: Yes, that is correct.

111. Price Sheets – F4; F4 – Equipment and Accessories:

Gateway: We assume the State's intent is to add capability to the Gateway subsystem already included in the base infrastructure pricing on Pricing Sheet F1. Would the State verify that it is requiring vendors to only quote 40 "audio interfaces" and not 40 entirely new Gateway subsystems on this line item?

Answer: No. Gateways are required.

112. Price Sheets – F4; F4 – Equipment and Accessories:

Other Equipment/Expenses: What items does the State need for vendors to include in this line item?

Answer: Offerors are to include any items not identifiable under other categories that are required for system deployment.

113. Price Sheets – F4; F4 – Equipment and Accessories, page 8 of 13, **Antenna Installation Labor & Materials** (last item on page): This line item calls for antenna installation labor and materials. However, the RFP reference, Section 3.3.2.6, calls for routing equipment such as routers, Ethernet switches, fiber optic transport equipment, etc. What equipment should be included in this pricing line item?

Was this line item originally intended for Microwave Antenna Installation and Material?

Answer: The reference for this line item should be Sec. 3.3.2.5. See Addendum 7, Item #1.

114. Price Sheets – F4; F4 – Equipment and Accessories:

PSTN Connectivity - T1: What technical requirements are associated with this line item? Is the State looking for a quote for a leased T1?

Answer: Pricing for this line item should include pricing for leased T-1 circuit and any associated equipment required to provide a usable interface to the radio system.

115. Attachment F: Price Sheets – F1; **F1 – Summary Infrastructure:**

How many console positions does the State require vendors to include in their base price?

How many different dispatch locations are to be outfitted with console equipment?

Which dispatch locations are associated with each region (1, 1a, 2, 3 and 4)? How many console positions are to be included in each location?

Answer: Console information is contained in appendix 6- Agency Console-Logger Requirements. Please also see answer to Question # 78.

116. Attachment F: Price Sheets – F1; **F1 – Summary Infrastructure:**

How many logging recorder playback terminals are required in the base bid? How many dispatch points (centers) will have a digital multi-channel recorder? What audio recording capacity (radio talkgroups and telephone lines) must be provided with each multi-channel recorder?

Answer: At least one logging recorder is required per dispatch point. Please see section 3.3.6.3 for audio recording requirements.

117. 3.3.6.3 – 2d & 2f: Logging Recorder -Operational Requirement: page 56-57: Will all telephone recording sites require ANI/ALI capture with each 911 call? If no, please indicate how many and which sites require this capability.

Answer: All 9-1-1 calls require that ANI/ALI be captured. Please reference section 3.3.6.3.

118. 3.3.6.3 – 2g: Logging Recorder -Operational Requirement: page 57: For each recording location, would the State indicate which locations will require telephone line identification (other than ANI/ALI) to be captured with the audio recording.

Please indicate the particulars of the phone system (PBX make and model, any CTI interface such as Symposium, CT Server, etc..., or if D-Channel information will be available (ISDN lines).

Answer: The requirement is for the Offeror to provide equipment with the capability to meet the requirement regardless of the capabilities of the local Public Switched Telephone Network (“PSTN”) provider supplying telecommunications services. Please reference section 3.3.6.3.2.d, .f, and .g.

119. 3.3.6.2: Logging Recorder – Telephone Interface: page 56: For each recording location, would the State indicate if telephone calls are to be recorded by 911 Trunk lines, PSTN lines, ISDN or telephone position/extension – or more than one. In other words, please indicate the desired recording methodology for each site.

a. By site, please indicate the number of lines and/or positions to be recorded. At site where there is to be a mix of audio feed (eg. ISDN lines and telephone extensions), please supply a detailed breakdown of the recording requirement. If recording of ISDN lines is required, please indicate whether they are BRI or PRI.

b. By site, please indicate if TDD need to be recorded, and how many.

Answer: The requirement is for the Offeror to provide equipment with the capability to meet the requirement regardless of the capabilities of the local Public Switched Telephone Network (“PSTN”) provider supplying telecommunications services. Specific components will be ordered to meet the unique requirements of any Public Safety Answering Point or other location when Public Switched Telephone Network lines are to be recorded.

120. General – Coverage: Are there any federal areas throughout the state where coverage is not required? If so, does the State have access to putting antennas on these properties?

Are there any areas of the state, such as a forested area, that does not necessarily required 24 dB coverage?

Answer: The RFP requires contiguous coverage throughout Maryland’s service areas. Please also see section 3.2.2 and Appendix 2.

121. Section 3.2.14.5: Since RFP Section 3.2.14.5 specifies compliance with appropriate 700 MHz FCC Rules and Regulations, interstate spectrum and inter-regional plans and agreements, and since RFP Appendix 14 provides a very detailed and comprehensive analysis of the 700 MHz frequency planning and coordination issues and their impact on coverage designs for the State of Maryland, including compliance with 40 dBu contour requirements at the State border:

-Has the State extended their service area to include the areas 3-mile to 10-miles beyond the State jurisdictional boundary into adjacent states, the District of Columbia and waterways?

-Does 40 dBu compliance now apply to this extended 3-mile to 10-mile service area boundary instead of the State’s jurisdictional boundary?

Answer: State border 40 dBu requirements exist only for the “State” channels and do not apply to General Pool channels. Please see Appendix 2 and section 3.2.14.2. The interstate propagation requirements of the Federal Communications Commission are found in DA01-406 which indicates that the signal of a State of Maryland transmitter operating on a “state” frequency as defined by Subpart 531(b)(5) may not exceed a 40 dBu contour into an adjacent state. For the purposes of the Commission’s rules, the District of Columbia is treated like a state with regard to the 40 dBu compliance. With respect to any frequencies used as found in Subpart 531(b)(6), the relevant Plans of the respective Regional Planning Committees would apply. To date, only the Plan of Region 20 has been approved by the Commission. Nevertheless, there is common agreement between Region 20 and Regions 28, 36, 42, and 44 to use the Computer Assisted Pre-coordination Resource and Database System (CAPRAD) to specify frequencies that can be used. Typically, a 40 dBu contour would delimit the propagation of a signal to no more than 3-5 miles from the user’s service boundary, which may be different from a political border. This flexibility is granted because in certain cases, mutual aid and other emergency service pacts may permit the extension of a signal beyond the geographic borders of a county or city. It is the expectation of the State that issues related to adherence to propagation contour requirements will be resolved during the system design process and that compliance will often be achieved through the selection of antenna models or other processes that do not materially affect system costs beyond those reasonably expected.

122. Addendum #4: Addendum 4 states that 100 technicians require maintenance training in each region. Is this a fairly accurate number?

Answer: It is anticipated that when the system is fully implemented, there will be participation by both state and county technicians that would approach that number. However, as stated in Addendum #4, this is the State's estimate of the required training per region and the State makes no guarantee of its actual training requirements.

123. General: Will the State be willing to contract with more than one prime contractor? For example; company A for LMR equipment and company B for civils work.

Answer: No, the State will contract with a single prime contractor who may in turn subcontract portions of the system to other companies. The prime contractor will be responsible for overall performance of their subcontractors.

124. & 125. Section 3.5.3.1.1:

RFP Section 3.5.3.1.1 Implementation Plan and Phase Milestones states "The Contractor's implementation plan shall clearly address the completion of each region, milestones within each region, and the completion of the overall statewide system."

The section goes on to state that the milestones "shall consist of the project milestones as indicated on the project schedule." The milestones indicated on the project schedule as listed in RFP Section 3.5.3.1.3 Project Schedule state "the schedule shall include, but is not limited to the following milestones:"

1. Submittals,
2. Final design review,
3. Submission of equipment orders,
4. System manufacture time frames,
5. Pre-shipment system integration and staging,
6. Factory/staging acceptance tests,
7. Equipment shipping,
8. Equipment delivery,
9. System installation and optimization,
10. SATP,
11. Operational testing and,
12. Coverage testing.

Question #124 - There are as many as 26 required contractor submittals per region. Does the State wish each of these 26 submittals to be identified under each region in the Implementation Plan as individual milestones?

Answer: Yes, the state wishes for the submittals to be identified under each region as individual milestones.

Question #125 - Does item #10 "SATP" above refer to the delivery of the System Acceptance Test Plan?

Answer: Yes, SATP refers to the System Acceptance Test Plan.

126. Sections 3.2.8.3 and 3.2.13.10:Section 3.2.8.3, End to End IP with Ethernet Interface, states Connectivity for all offered infrastructure equipment (repeaters, dispatch consoles, message switching and routing, and transport equipment) must be accomplished using Internet Protocol (IP) from end to end, with Ethernet interface for local site equipment. It is required that any equipment, including mobiles, portables, RF control stations and vehicular repeaters be individually addressable and accessible from the management and administration sub-system described elsewhere.

Section 3.2.13.10, Site Connectivity and Interface Levels, states the system must include all equipment necessary for connection of the voice and data systems to the fixed transport infrastructure, and must interface with the digital microwave or other transport system at a DS1 level, allowing DS0 level grooming on channel bank equipment where necessary or appropriate. If direct interface to digital transport is not possible, then the system must provide the necessary interface to affect that connection.

Please confirm that the State is requiring a system that all site equipment must be connected using Ethernet interface and aggregated (using router) over a microwave system via DS1 level.

The State also includes a fiber map that could be used in the design of the system, in the case that fiber is connected directly to the router is there still a requirement for "digital microwave or other transport system at a DS1 level, allowing DS0 level grooming on channel bank equipment where necessary or appropriate?"

Answer: Whether the site connectivity is via fiber or microwave, the requirement for DS0 grooming is still applicable.

127. Price Sheets – Attachment F3 – System Support: Each region has a line entry for Parts and Labor and also a line entry for Labor Only. The instructions read that "The prices in each column are then to be summed to the "Total Unweighted Price" row." This sum double counts the labor for each region, once in the Parts and Labor line entry and again in the Labor Only line entry.

If there are both Parts and Labor to be proposed for a region should the Labor Only line entry be left blank? Please clarify.

Answer: After the warranty period expires, System Support may be purchased for hardware/software as specified in the RFP Sections 3.6.2 and 3.6.3. The State may purchase either Parts and Labor support or Labor only support. Therefore, the Offeror must provide pricing for both options. System Support pricing is part of the Financial Proposal and this pricing is combined for evaluation purposes only.

26. (Supplemental Answer): The Shape files referred to in Q&A # 26 of Q&A set #1 are now available on CD. If you desire a CD, it can be picked up from the Procurement Officer at 45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. Please contact the Procurement Officer beforehand to ensure he is in the office for pick-up.