



Maryland Department of Budget & Management

*DBM – people and technology...
a partnership for the new millennium*

*Office of the Secretary
Division of Policy Analysis*

*ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.
Governor*

*MICHAEL S. STEELE
Lieutenant Governor*

*JAMES C. DIPAULA, JR.
Secretary*

*CECILIA JANUSZKIEWICZ
Deputy Secretary*

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES # 1 Wireless Communications Infrastructure Site Installations 050R4800143 January 16, 2004

Ladies/Gentlemen:

This List of Questions and Responses #1 is being issued to clarify certain information contained in the above named RFP. The statements and interpretations of contract requirements which are contained in the following answers to questions of potential bidders are not binding on the State, unless the State expressly amends the RFP. Nothing in the State's responses to these questions is to be construed as agreement to or acceptance by the State of any statement or interpretation on the part of the vendor asking the question as to what the contract does or does not require.

1. Question: Section 3.5.4 of the RFP indicates that a letter is required to prove offeror is capable of securing the required performance bond, is this requirement in conflict with Section 1.26 of the RFP?

Answer: No, Section 1.26 requires that successful offerors must provide a Performance Bond within five (5) days after recommendation for award not with the proposal submission.

2. Question: What does Section 2.1.c of the RFP mean by stating "contractor shall assume total responsibility for project design"?

Answer: The State will provide a performance specification for each task order. The Master Contractor will be responsible for providing a design that meets the performance specification and is also responsible for the work and materials provided by any subcontractor.

3. Question: Section 3.4.3.3.b of the RFP indicates the warranty requirement on shelter is one (1) year but Sec 2.10 of the RFP indicates two (2) years, can the State clarify the requirement?

Answer: The warranty provided by the equipment shelter manufacturer is typically one year; the State requires the Master Contractor to provide a two-year warranty on the all provided materials and installation, including the shelter.

4. Question: Will the ranking of proposals submitted for the Master Contract affect the ranking of proposals submitted in response to task orders?

Answer: No.

5. Question: Concerning Attachments K-1, K-2, K-3, & K-4.K-1, do offerors quote a tower for 160', 170', 180' or is the tower to be stacked to 160' and be able to go to the 180' or is the tower quoted only to be loaded from the 160' to the 180'?

Answer: The tower is 180 ft. AGL. Total height w/appurtenances 199 ft. AGL. The tower is to be loaded per the loading diagram with the antennas at the heights listed.

6. Question: If the pricing for Task Orders #1 through #5 are to be fixed for a period of three (3) years how are the Task Order competitions for actual installations to be conducted after the Master Contracts are issued?

Answer: The pricing proposed under the Master Contract for Task Orders #1 through #5 is for evaluation purposes; however the pricing proposed in response to the RFP will also fix the unit pricing for the base term of the Master Contract which is three years. If and when any renewal options are exercised, the CPI language in Section 1.28 of the RFP will be referred to for any price increases. Since the pricing proposed for the base term of the Master Contract is for three years, Offerors should take into consideration inflation costs over the three years when preparing their pricing in response to the RFP. In addition, Task Orders will be competitively bid under the Master Contract. Master Contractors cannot propose pricing when responding to Task Orders which exceeds what was proposed in the Master Contract. Master Contractors can propose pricing that is less than what was proposed in the Master Contract when responding to Task Orders.

7. Question: 3.5.1.e. - Is PE certification required for the shelter foundation design drawings?

Answer: Yes, for Task Order #2 only.

8. Question: Is freight for towers and shelters to be proposed F.O.B. Baltimore, MD?

Answer: Yes for Example of Task Order #1 thru #4. The Scope of Services and specifications of Example of Task Order #5 States: The Master Contractor shall provide all coordination, shipping, functions, labor, materials, insurance and purchase items required to install three (3) fully functional Microwave/Wireless Communications equipment shelters at three (3) different tower sites in HARFORD COUNTY.

9. Question: How does the State want Offerors to price the access road (Section 2.2.e pg. 12 of the RFP)?

Answer: The price proposal forms for Example of Task Orders #1 through #5 do not require a price for an access road. Section 2.2.e of the RFP is part of the general specifications; it is intended to make sure that any access road construction, if required at the task order level, will be done according to SHA Construction Specifications, 2001 (Blue Book, section 500).

10. Question: Example Task Order #5 is the only task order that specifies equipment drops. Is this the only task that requires drops or are Offerors to assume that each task order receives equipment drops as specified in Example Task Order #5?

Answer: If referring to UPS equipment drops, the answer is yes, only Example Task Order # 5 requires UPS drops.

10. Question: Example Task Order #5 has a total of (3) shelters. Do all shelters receive equipment drops?

Answer: If you are referring to UPS equipment drops, the answer is yes.

11. Question: Example Task Order #5 is the only task that specifies a UPS unit. Are Offerors to supply and install this unit and if so what size is this unit?

Answer: No, Offerors are NOT supplying the UPS unit.

Question: Example Task Order #5 has a total of (3) shelters. Do all the shelters receive a UPS unit?

Answer: Offerors will NOT be supplying UPS units. However the UPS equipment drop will be supplied by the Offerors.

12. Question: What is a GANTT chart scheduler?

Answer: Gantt charts are a project planning tool that can be used to represent the timing of tasks required to complete a project. Because Gantt charts are simple to understand and easy to construct, they are used by most project managers for all but the most complex projects.

13. Question: Are Offerors required to complete Sections 3.4.3.1, 3.4.3.2, 3.4.3.3 and 3.7 for proposals submitted in response to the Master Contract?

Answer: Yes, please reread the requirements set for in Section 3 of the RFP.

14. Question: Offerors need to know the exact tower heights the State of Maryland is requesting. The RFP shows samples, for example 160' - 180'. Do Offerors need to quote a 160' and a 180'? Also, the RFP shows samples, for example 190' - 330'. Do Offerors need to quote a 190' and 330', or is it a 190' extendable to 330', or are there different increments between 190' and 330'?

Answer: Example Task Order # 1 asks for pricing of a 180 ft. self supporting tower; Example Task Order # 2 asks for pricing of a 330 ft. self supporting tower; Example Task Order # 3 asks for pricing of a 450 ft. self supporting tower and Example Task Order # 4 asks for pricing of a 75 ft. monopole.

15. Question: Section 2.2.F of the RFP states that proposals are to assume "normal soils" as defined by Attachment J. Attachment J depicts actual soil conditions that are not the same as the theoretical "normal soils" as defined by EIA/TIA standards. Are Offerors to assume "normal soils" or soils similar to those shown in Attachment J?

Answer: "Normal soils" refers to typical soil conditions encountered in Maryland. Please use the soil conditions depicted in Attachment J for pricing and evaluation purposes.

16. Question: Each of the five Price Sheets in Attachment E states that the shelter height of 10' is the interior height dimension. This would be a non-standard height that will drive the cost of the shelters much higher than a standard height building. Can the State please confirm that this is the intended height of the shelter interior? If it is not, can you provide Offerors with a clarification as to what the height requirements are?

Answer: The required interior shelter height, based on Motorola R-56 Guidelines, is 10-ft.

17. Question: As part of the technical proposal, Offerors will be submitting information on equipment (towers, shelters, generators, etc.) that include as part of the pricing for the financial proposal. Will contractors be locked into that make and model of equipment on all future task orders? What if one of the equipment manufacturers discontinues that line of product or the manufacturer goes out of business during the term of the Master Contract?

Answer: Master Contractors may substitute equipment, if approved by the State Project Manager, if what is proposed under the Master Contract. Substitutions must be technically equivalent to what is proposed under the Master Contract.

The pricing proposed under the Master Contract for Task Orders #1 through #5 is for evaluation purposes; however, the pricing proposed in response to the RFP will also fix the unit pricing for the base term of the Master Contract which is three years. If and when any renewal options are exercised, the CPI language in Section 1.28 of the RFP will be referred to for any price increases. Since the pricing proposed for the base term of the Master Contract is for three years, Offerors should take into consideration inflation costs over the three years when preparing their pricing in response to the RFP. In addition, Task Orders will be competitively bid under the Master Contract. Master Contractors cannot propose pricing when responding to Task Orders that exceeds what was proposed in the Master Contract. Master Contractors can propose pricing that is less than what was proposed in the Master Contract when responding to Task Orders.

18. Question: Example Task Order #5 specifies the equipment drops for the shelters. Are these equipment drops the same for all three shelters in Example Task Order #5? Are these same equipment drops to be assumed for the other Example Task Orders or only Example Task Order #5?

Answer: UPS equipment drops are only required for the three (3) shelters mentioned in Example Task Order #5.

19. Question: Do the shelter drawings require a MD PE stamp?

Answer: Section 3.5.1e. " Additional Required Submissions" states "Two (2) copies of the foundation designs and the ground loading calculations certified by a Maryland registered Professional Engineer (P.E.)". This means that vendors have to supply P.E. stamped foundation design drawings only.

20. Question: It was noted while designing the towers for this proposal that while the towers are to be designed to 80 mph the soils report is from a site in a Maryland county that has a 90 mph wind speed requirement as per EIA 222-F. In order to certify the foundation design the wind speed must be the same can the State please clarify this requirement?

Answer: The soil report was provided to show typical conditions for Maryland soil. Offerors are to design the towers with the 80 MPH concurrent with 1/2 " ice requirement in mind.

21. Question: Is the contractor responsible for picking up and paying for permits for individual sites and is the contractor responsible for picking up and paying for permits for individual sites?

Answer: As per Section 2.1.k. of the RFP, the State is responsible for obtaining FAA approval and permits; the Contractor is responsible for applying, paying and picking up of any other required site permits.

22. Question: Attachment K-1, "Tower Loading for 160' to 180' Self Supporting Tower", for Items 10, 11 and 12 the column Mounting Location Measured Down from Top indicates "Top Less 80'", which should place antenna loading at 100'. However, the column Mounting Location AGL indicates the location is 120'. If Items 10, 11 and 12 are located at the 100' elevation, then do you also want Items 13, 14 and 15 at 100'. Can the State please clarify which location is correct for Items 10, 11 and 12 and confirm locations for Items 13, 14 and 15?

Answer: Offerors should ignore the information in column 2 (Mounting Location Measured Down from Top). Items 10, 11 & 12 should have read "Top Less 60'" but in the example you are using the Mounting Location AGL column is correct.

23. Question: Attachment K-1, "Tower Loading for 160' to 180' Self Supporting Tower", for Item 16 does not specify the quantity of antennas (DAPA 59210 Panel Antenna Array), but identifies (24) lines. How many antennas are to be considered for Item 16?

Answer: Use 12 panels.

24. Question: Attachment K-1, "Tower Loading for 160' to 180' Self Supporting Tower", for Item 17 does not specify the quantity of antennas (DB858HV90 E-SX Panel Antenna), but it identifies (6) lines. How many antennas are to be considered for Item 17?

Answer: Use 6 Panels.

25. Question: Attachment K-3 is for "Tower Loading for 80' to 105' Monopole Tower". However, Example Task Order #4 specifies Monopole Tower 75-ft AGL. Items 1 and 2 of Attachment K-3 Mounting Location AGL exceed tower height. Please confirm Attachment K-3 is the correct antenna/line loading and clarify mounting elevations.

Answer: For the mounting height for Item 1 use 75' AGL. For the mounting height for Item 2 use 55' AGL.

26. Question: Attachment K-4, Typical Tower Loading for 450' Self Supporting Tower", for Items 1 through 10 indicates all azimuths to be 0 degrees. Is this correct?

Answer: The antennas are to be equally distributed around the tower. The correct azimuths are:

Item 1 = 0 degrees

Item 2 = 120 degrees

Item 3 = 240 degrees

Item 4 = 0 degrees

Item 5 = 120 degrees

Item 6 = 240 degrees

Item 7 = 0 degrees

Item 8 = 120 degrees

Item 9 = 240 degrees

Items 10 - 36 are listed correctly on the Attachment.

27. Question: Attachment K-4, Typical Tower Loading for 450' Self Supporting Tower:, for Item 25 indicates (6) DAPA 59210 Panel Antenna Array and (24) lines. Please confirm loading is correct.

Answer: 6 Panels with 24 lines is correct.

28. Question: There appear to be discrepancies in antenna and line quantities for DAPA 59210 Panel Antenna Array and DB858HV90EE-SX Panel Antenna Array (examples on K-2 for 330' SS - Item 16 for (6) antennas and (12) lines vs the same antennas at Item 21 for (6) antennas and (6) lines or Item 17 for (6) antennas and (6) lines vs the same antenna at Item 22 for (6) antennas and (12) lines). These items will have an affect on the design of the tower. Please confirm quantities for antennas and lines where multiple antennas and lines are specified on Attachments K-1 through K-4.

Answer: Please use the number of panels/lines as listed on the Attachments or as amended by this response. The actual selection of panels/numbers of lines were selected for "worse case" loading to be used in the structural design of our towers rather than a specific or even correct technical application of number of lines

to correct panels. At this point we have no way of knowing what will actually be installed on the towers we construct. The loading was provided for Offerors use in the response to the RFP. The actual antenna/line configuration would be defined in the task orders issued under the Master Contract.

29 Question: Antenna mounts were not specified in antenna loading. Do you wish to specify type of antenna mount for design purposes or should manufacturer/engineer assume mount type?

Answer: All LMR Omni, Fiberglass, Dipole antennas will be mounted on 6' side arms. All Cellular/PCS panel antennas to be mounted on 12' Boom Gate mounts.

30 Question: Is any antenna and line installation pricing to be included in tower supply and erection pricing?

Answer: Antenna and line installation is NOT to be included as part of the tower supply and erection pricing.