



**Questions and Answers No. 1  
Request for Proposal 060B4400002  
INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT SERVICES**

Ladies/Gentlemen:

This list of questions and responses is being issued to clarify certain information contained in the above referenced RFP. The statements and interpretations contained in the following responses to questions by potential Offerors are not binding to the State, unless an addendum expressly amends the RFP. Nothing in the State's response 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.

- 1) Our company was an MBE subcontractor to provide QA support services for the State agency system operations and maintenance contract, which exceeds the project value \$10,000,000 for system modifications and enhancements per year, does it meet the DoIT minimum qualifications 2.4.2. "At least three (3) of the examples must have evaluated information system development projects with a project value in excess of \$10,000,000".

**RESPONSE: The State cannot comment on questions that are specific to an individual Offeror's circumstance.**

- 2) Can one company be in the multiple proposals as a subcontractor?

**RESPONSE: Yes.**

- 3) Can one company be a prime contractor in one proposal, and a subcontractor in another proposal?

**RESPONSE: Yes.**

- 4) Are the hourly labor rates for each year the company maximum rate (not to exceed rate) or is it the real rate for the TORFPs?

**RESPONSE: The hourly rates are the maximum not to exceed rates for the secondary level of competition.**

- 5) The IAS contract will be used by both State agencies and DoIT. Thus, can a State agency use the IAS master contract to perform an IV&V of one of its MITDPs itself, versus DoIT performing the IV&V of that project? Or, will it remain DoIT's sole responsibility to perform MITDP IV&Vs?

**RESPONSE: Yes, both DoIT and State agencies may use this Master Contract to perform IV&Vs.**

- 6) Will State agencies be required to use the IAS Master Contract to procure any IAS type services they need (e.g., an agency needs a QA vendor for a project), or can they continue to procure these services in the manner they currently do, if they choose to?

**RESPONSE: No, State agencies will not be required to use the IAS Master Contract. If they choose, State agencies use a variety of contracts and procurement methods to acquire services.**

- 7) As owner of the IAS master contract:  
a. Will DoIT be privy to the IAS project results if a State agency procured the IAS services themselves?

**RESPONSE: DoIT is permitted access to all major IT development artifacts.**

- b. If not, is there any conflict of interest in a master contract vendor performing IAS directly for an agency and also performing IAS for that agency's project under the guidance of DoIT?

**RESPONSE: DoIT will need to consider potential conflicts of interest task order by task order.**

- 8) Section 1.1.4 of the RFP speaks to contractor ineligibility concerning the performance of IAS and non-IAS work on a project for an agency. However, it doesn't speak to any possible ineligibility in performing more than one type of IAS service for an agency's project – and the guidelines regarding for whom the IAS service was performed (e.g., the State agency or DoIT). For example:  
a. We assume that DoIT can use the same master contractor to perform one or more different types of IAS contracts for a single project (e.g., first a risk assessment, and later an IV&V). Is this correct?

**RESPONSE: That assumption is correct.**

- b. We assume that a State agency can use the same master contractor to perform one or more different types of IAS contracts for a single project (e.g., first a risk assessment, and later a QA audit), but possibly not an IAS and a non-IAS service (e.g., system development and QA auditing). Is this correct?

**RESPONSE: The State must always assess whether or not a conflict of interest exists. If a conflict exists, the State may not award the work to the vendor with the conflict. It is difficult to determine conflict of interest on hypothetical questions.**

- c. If a State agency procures a master contract vendor to perform an IAS for a project (e.g., a risk assessment), when it comes time for DoIT to perform the IV&V for that project, would the master contract vendor performing/or that performed the IAS service on behalf of the State agency be precluded from performing the IV&V? Or could the

vendor perform the IV&V because the risk assessment was also an IAS contract, versus a non IAS contract?

**RESPONSE:** Please see the response to Question # 8b.

- d. Based on the scenarios above, if the performance of one IAS contract for a project can make a contractor ineligible to perform another IAS contract for that project, will DoIT be providing an overarching forecast (say a 12-18 month forecast) of the IAS services it may be procuring, by project, so vendors can plan accordingly? Without this forecast, for example, a vendor may perform a small/short term IAS on behalf of an agency, and then miss out a few months later on the opportunity to perform a longer-term life-cycle IV&V for that project.

**RESPONSE:** The State publishes the list of MITDPs annually and performs oversight on those projects on an ongoing basis. DoIT intends to draw on the resources from the IAS contract to assist with DoIT oversight, as needed. Because all agencies may use the IAS for a variety of needs, DoIT will need to consider potential conflicts of interest task order by task order.

- 9) Can a company be on more than on bid team for this effort?

**RESPONSE:** Please see the responses to Questions #2 & 3 above.

- 10) Vendor Questions are due by 11/11, and the State may need a few days to prepare and send responses (e.g. 11/14 or 11/15). The proposal due date is 11/19 (potentially, just two business days after responses to questions have been received). Would the State consider extending the due date so vendors have the opportunity to adjust their proposals, approach, etc. based on the answers?

**RESPONSE:** At this time, the State will not extend the due date of this RFP. However, the State will monitor Question response times and act accordingly.

Thank you,

Michael Meinel  
Procurement Officer

End of Question and Answer # 1