

ITEM: 4-IT (Cont.)

since they were not able to provide pricing as required in the RFP. The recommended vendor was ranked number one both technically and financially.

The intent of this contract is to provide a path to consolidate State users to a single platform for electronic messaging services, collaborative tools and support. This is consistent with all three of Maryland's Information Technology perpetual objectives consolidation, interoperability and standards.

Cloud computing is a model for enabling available, convenient and on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, applications, and services). The idea is that these resources can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction. This approach has the capability to reduce the cost of IT infrastructure by utilizing commercially available technologies that are based on virtualization of servers, databases, and applications to allow for capital cost savings.

On-premise email, the State's current architecture for electronic messaging, was developed decades ago and has been revised over the years in attempt to satisfy evolving business requirements. With few exceptions, State agencies select and manage their own electronic messaging solutions and end-user applications. This includes separate hardware, software, maintenance fees, and technical staff to provide support at each of the agencies. Besides the economic and operational inefficiencies of the legacy technology environment, the lack of necessary capabilities, such as instant blast communications to all State personnel and real-time, multi-party document editing, are further driving the need to replace the messaging platform. The best example Cloud messaging and collaboration is a modern approach and was designed from the ground up with the latest business requirements in mind. It provides a service-based approach that requires less time, expertise, and budget while providing greater availability, reliability, and security. Furthermore, Whereas agencies now manage their collaboration platforms individually, the new consolidated collaboration solution will be centrally managed by DoIT, allowing agencies to focus their limited resources on their individual missions.

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) issued this Request for Proposals (RFP) as part of an effort to procure cloud computing services and make them available to State agencies through a two-step process. The first step, reflected in this RFP, is to identify and procure the most advantageous technologies or platform to use in delivering messaging and collaboration services. The second step will be to solicit implementation assistance from one or more vendors to meet each agency's specific needs, as needed. Not all agencies will need outside assistance to migrate from their current email environment to the new cloud solution.

No MBE goal was established for this procurement. Agencies will be purchasing subscriptions to cloud email services. There are no MBE subcontracting opportunities.

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With the use of a federal grant, DHMH will be the first agency to use this new contract. The Appropriation Code listed in this agenda item is related to the transfer of DHMH's grant funds to DoIT for the initial purchase. All other agencies will purchase their subscriptions to the cloud email services as funding becomes available.

FUND SOURCE: Various by agency.

APPROP. CODE: Various by agency

RESIDENT BUSINESS: No

MD TAX CLEARANCE: 11-2147-0000

Board of Public Works Action - The above referenced Item was:

APPROVED

DISAPPROVED

DEFERRED

WITHDRAWN

WITH DISCUSSION

WITHOUT DISCUSSION