

AUGUSTA COUNTY SERVICE AUTHORITY



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Request for Proposal (RFP) #1748 – Replacement Water Meters & Meter Reading System Addendum #1 and Acknowledgement

To: Prospective Bidders

From: Casey McCracken, Augusta County Service Authority

Date: January 30, 2017

Subject: RFP #1748 – Replacement Water Meters & Meter Reading System Addendum

The Augusta County Service Authority (ACSA) received the following questions from bidders. The answer to each question is provided below.

Question #1:

8.0 Terms of Contract states “Prices quoted shall remain firm for the term of the replacement project (estimated to be 3 years).” It is difficult to forecast changes in the materials market, could a price alteration clause be added?

Answer #1:

Yes. 8.6 shall be amended to state:

“Prices quoted shall remain firm for one (1) year. Vendors may request a price adjustment for subsequent years of the project (estimated to be 2 additional years) once per year. Price increases may not be greater than the annualized relevant PPI as specified in the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Producer Price Index or other method subject to the approval of the Authority.”

Question #2:

2.3.2.1 – Registration states “All registers shall be mechanical”. Will ACSA accept proposals for systems that incorporate electronic meter registers for evaluation?

Answer #2:

No. ACSA desires a mechanical register. The mechanical register is a tried and true technology and ACSA wishes to reduce the number of batteries it must track and potential issues raised by having additional electronics in the meter. ACSA expects that the selected vendor will provide mechanical registers for at least the term of the project.

Question #3:

What is your schedule for award of the RFP?

Answer #3:

We are accepting proposals until February 16th. ACSA has a goal to be ready to award at the April board meeting, but this cannot be guaranteed.

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Question #4:

Are the shipment of meters and endpoints going to be asked for in one shipment? If not, do you have a timetable and quantities for shipments?

Answer #4:

The RFP currently phases the project over 3 years, which would result in 3 batches of ~5,000 meters and endpoints. ACSA is interested in hearing alternative scheduling proposals from the bidders and the impact those changes would have on cost and delivery.

Question #5:

What meter manufacturers are approved by ACSA?

Answer #5:

The RFP is open to any vendor that can meet the meter criteria.

Question #6:

Who are the manufacturers and models of the meters you are retrofitting with spliced endpoints?

Answer #6:

The retrofits will be on the greater than 1” meters. ACSA currently uses Sensus Omni, Master Meter Octave & Multi-Jet, Hersey 500 series PD, Badger M series PD and a few others. All meters currently terminate to touchpad.

Question #7:

For 2.4.1.1, what proof do you require for being able to transmit in the Quiet Zone?

Answer #7:

ACSA would be looking for either prior approvals from other projects in the same Quiet Zone that includes the Augusta County area, a letter from the quiet zone that the vendor is approved or that the quiet zone regulations are not applicable, or other documentation that shows the vendor is either not covered by quiet zone regulation (ex. Outside the frequency or below the power limit) or allowed to operate in the quiet zone.

Question #8:

Has ACSA received any regulations regarding the Quiet Zone?

Answer #8:

No. The best source of information would be to contact the National Radio Quiet Zone. <https://science.nrao.edu/facilities/gbt/interference-protection/nrqz>

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Question #9:

Section 5.1 states that if a hybrid system is advantageous, this possibility will be negotiated with the selected vendor. Would ACSA consider a cellular system from one vendor and the drive by system from another or would both systems need to come from the same vendor? Will you only consider hybrid systems from a vendor who can offer both cellular and drive by solutions?

Answer #9:

The intent of the RFP is that each vendor will submit a complete read solution, either as a standalone cellular and/or a standalone drive by (no hybrid). If needed, after reviewing the proposals, ACSA will negotiate with the selected vendor on the possibility of a hybrid system. If ACSA elects to negotiate for a hybrid system, the first option would be with one vendor, but this does not rule out the possibility of using multiple vendors.

Question #10:

Will ACSA be installing these meters itself or will this be contracted out? Does installation need to be included in the response?

Answer #10:

ACSA intends to issue a separate ITB for meter installation once it has determined which meter and technology will be used.

Question #11:

Would ACSA accept an alternate meter technology, ex. Single Jet?

Answer #11:

No, we are looking for meters using either Positive Displacement or Multi-Jet technology.

Question #12:

Please clarify the intent of Read System Requirements 2.4.1.6 – “read system equipment shall be backward compatible for the life the equipment”.

Answer #12:

The intent of this requirement is that new reading hardware (both endpoints and read system) will be compatible with the hardware that is purchased at the beginning of the project. Ex. in year 1 ACSA purchases 5,000 endpoints. If ACSA purchases additional read equipment in year 12 (ex. to equip a new truck for drive by) that new equipment should be capable of reading those original endpoints. In the same way, new endpoints purchased in year 12 should still be readable using the year 1 read hardware.

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Question #13:

Regarding 2.4.2 Signal Requirements, what type of guarantee are you looking for? Also, is this just for reading the meter or data logging?

Answer #13:

The RFP is looking for 100% of reads to be collected by the reading system (drive-by or cellular). The intent for drive by is for collection to be at speed and while staying on the road (vs. driving to each meter individually). The intent for cellular is to receive at least one reading per day. ACSA expects some areas may be more difficult to read (terrain, distance to road, etc). Please include the cost of the equipment to read those more difficult locations as well. This can be included as a cost for one unit and during the interview process ACSA will provide location information to make a more informed estimate.

This requirement is just for a single read with the drive by systems. ACSA expects that data logging or other interrogation of the endpoint will require being parked.

Question #14:

Appendix A lists the read system options. Should the “With New Meter” cost include the cost of the meter?

Answer #14:

No. The costs under the read sections are for the read system only. The “With New Meter” cost will only be for the radio endpoint. During evaluation, ACSA will add the cost of the meter and the endpoint to determine a total “per location” cost. It is the intention of the ACSA to purchase both meters and read system from the same vendor/vendor team.

Question #15:

Who is your utility billing system vendor?

Answer #15:

Sungard Public Sector using the HTE/Naviline Select product. Contact information can be found at <http://www.sungardps.com/contact>.

Please print all pages of this addendum and sign and date the acknowledgement below indicating that you have received the changes to the specifications and include it with your submittal for your bid to be considered.

I acknowledge receipt of this Document and the Addendum Changes:

Vendor’s Signature

Date

Printed Name