

Memorandum for General RFP Configuration

To: Vendors Responding to LOC for Project #34312 for the MS Public Service Commission (PSC)

From: David L. Litchlitter

Date: April 10, 2003

Subject: Responses submitted to questions and clarifications to specifications

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The following questions were submitted to ITS. The questions are presented below as they were submitted to ITS. We have attempted to answer as clearly as possible and hope this information will assist you in formulating your response.

1. Section 2.11 Host failover and alternative path support (including support for Veritas Dynamic MultiPath)

Question: Are you saying that Veritas DMP must be supported or will other failover/MultiPath software be acceptable?

Response: Veritas DMP must be supported.

2. Section 2.16 Two (2) Fibre Channel/iSCSI storage routers providing a minimum of eight (8) FC and iSCSI drivers to support IBM AIX and Windows NT/2000

Question: Exactly how many servers will be attached to the SAN with dual HBAs and how many attached by a single HBA?

Response: No servers will be attached to the SAN with dual HBAs. Only three (3) servers, two (2) Windows 2000 and one (1) AIX, will be attached to the SAN via HBA. Redundant connectivity is to be provided to these three (3) servers via iSCSI. The remaining eight (8) Windows servers and the remaining AIX server will be connected to the SAN via iSCSI.

Question: Do you really mean iSCSI drivers (software) or does it mean connections or ports (hardware)? If this refers to ports, are you requesting 8 for iSCSI and 8 FC as a minimum? Does it mean something totally different?

Response: The iSCSI driver will be installed on every server. The minimum in the specification refers to the number of FC (Fibre Channel) ports.

3. Section 2.17 Fibre Channel Host Bus Adapters (HBAs) for connectivity to the SAN from two of the Windows 2000 servers. Redundant connectivity will be provided via iSCSI. Therefore dual HBAs are unnecessary.

Question: Does this imply that only two servers will be attached to the SAN storage device?

Response: Two (2) Windows 2000 servers will be attached via HBA.

Question: Will each server have one FC card and one iSCSI card for storage access? Or does this imply that the servers are using iSCSI for clustering capability?

Response: No. Two (2) servers will have an HBA and the iSCSI driver. The remaining eight (8) Windows servers have an iSCSI driver only.

4. Section 2.18 Fibre Channel Host Bus Adapters (HBAs) for connectivity to the SAN from one (1) of the IBM AIX servers. Redundant connectivity will be provided via iSCSI. Therefore dual HBAs are unnecessary

Question: Does this imply that only one AIX server will be attached to the SAN storage device?

Response: One (1) AIX server will be attached via HBA. The remaining AIX server will have an iSCSI driver only.

Question: Will this server have one FC card and one iSCSI card for storage access?

Response: No. One (1) server will have an HBA and the iSCSI driver. Every other server will have only the iSCSI driver.

5. Section 3.1 Open, extensible, modular storage management software based on the following industry standards
 - 3.1.1 Common Information Model (CIM)
 - 3.1.2 Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)
 - 3.1.3 Storage Network Industry Association's (SNIA) Bluefin Storage Management Initiative

Question: Do all standards have to be implemented today or are announced products later this year valid?

Response: All products should comply with the standards as listed. Vendor must warrant that storage management software will be made compliant with all of the listed standards as they are finalized.

6. Question: Where is the equipment install location?

Response: PSC, 455 North Lamar Street, Jackson, MS 39201

7. Section 2.19.1 Two (2) SDLT320 tape drives

Question: Will SDLT320 tape drives be accepted in place of the specified SDLT220 drives? SDLT320's offer greater performance and storage capacity using the same tape cartridges.

Response: Yes. SDLT320 tape drives will be accepted in place of the specified SDLT220 drives. However, Vendor must be aware that cost, as well as performance, will be a consideration in the evaluation.

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Shey Williams at 601-359-1340.