

LOC Questions and Clarifications Memorandum

To: Solicited Vendors for Letter of Configuration (LOC) Number 38019, dated March 13, 2009 for the Mississippi Department of Education - Office of Vocational Education and Workforce Development (MDE-OVEWD)

From: David L. Litchliter

Date: March 27, 2009

Subject: Responses to Questions Submitted and Clarifications to Specifications

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LOC Number 38019 is hereby amended as follows:

- 1. Specification 4.3** - The Vendor must provide pricing for the core elements of the ICT and STEM labs *for all categories for which they are approved on the Micro and LAN EPLs*. Core elements are defined as the equipment found in Section A of the ICT I, II, and STEM specifications, the “Computer Systems and Peripherals: Information Technology Equipment,” except for item 8, the network connectivity equipment. The Vendor may choose to provide pricing for the “Other Equipment” found in Section B, such as digital cameras, headphones, voting systems, etc.

The following questions were submitted to ITS and are being presented as they were submitted, except to remove any reference to a specific vendor. This information should assist you in formulating your response.

Question 1: Is the training strictly for the White Boards, or for all hardware?

Response: **The hourly rate for training requested in Attachment A is a way for schools to request training on any of their new equipment, such as PCs, printers, projectors, etc. Note that the specifications require that two hours of training must be included in the cost of the interactive board. Vendors are required to propose the rates requested in Attachment A.**

Question 2: Can we quote more than one solution? For example: I have one school that prefers Nikon cameras and another school that prefers Olympus, one prefers Epson projectors, and the other prefers Infocus. Another example is some schools prefer towers to small form factors, can both be quoted?

Response: **Vendors may propose up to four configurations of each piece of equipment. See specification 18.3 of the LOC.**

Question 3: In the event of a warranty-covered hard drive failure (student PC, teacher PC), are HS Redesign Lab vendors responsible for re-imaging the hard drive after it has been replaced under the manufacturer warranty?

Response: **No, Vendors would not be responsible for re-imaging the hard drive as part of the warranty. The Vendor would be responsible for replacing the failed hard drive and the school would have the option of re-imaging the hard drive themselves or requesting that the Vendor provide this service at an additional charge.**

Question 4: In the event of a warranty-covered hard drive failure (server) are HS Redesign Lab vendors responsible for reloading all applications and restoring all data from back up after the hard drive has been replaced under the manufacturer warranty?

Response: **No, Vendors would not be responsible for re-imaging the hard drive as part of the warranty. The Vendor would be responsible for replacing the failed hard drive and the school would have the option of re-imaging the hard drive themselves or requesting that the Vendor provide this service at an additional charge.**

Question 5: I was just speaking with my Lenovo specialist and he said depending on which version of Solidworks (07, 08, or 09) and which OS will depend on which graphics card they will need. If for some reason the schools are not running the latest version of Solidworks, they could require the higher end graphics card. I'd rather propose the lower end solution, but obviously not knowing if any new schools will select our proposal, I won't have any idea what version they are running.

Response: **According to the STEM specifications, the schools are to purchase the latest version of SolidWorks available. The operating system should be either XP or Vista. ITS will allow Vendors to propose several graphics card options for the STEM student desktops in the appropriate description box on the Product Information Form.**

Question 6: Can we propose a 19" monitor instead of a 17", or does it have to be a 17"?

Response: The ICT I, II, and STEM specifications are all minimum requirements. Vendors may exceed the specifications. Describe the products in the description area of Attachment B, Product Information Forms.

Question 7: If we can't provide all the items listed do we have to price all items or can we price what we sell? For example like the voting systems, etc.

Response: See specification 4.3, as amended above, and specification 6.2 of the LOC. The intent of the ICT/STEM EPL is for Vendors to provide pricing for a majority of the core elements found in Section A of the ICT I, II, and STEM specifications documents.

Question 8: What if we sell items, like HP laser printers, but we are not listed as an official reseller on the EPL, can we still offer those items?

Response: See specification 6.3 of the LOC. For the core elements, Section A of the ICT I, II, and STEM specifications, which includes printers, Vendors must be an official reseller on the Micro or LAN EPL. For items in Section B, such as digital cameras, Vendors may sell any manufacturer they choose.

Question 9: Do I include the cost as a line item for each part of the student desktop, such as the memory, hard drive, etc, in the product forms?

Response: No, please provide the cost for the entire configuration in the "Price" box of the Product Information Form. The exception is for the graphics cards for the STEM student computers. ITS will allow Vendors to propose several graphics card options for the student desktops in the appropriate description box on the Product Information Form.

Question 10: Can I handwrite my products on the product information forms?

Response: No. Type the product information in the existing Word tables, copying and pasting the tables as necessary for your four allowable configurations, and provide an electronic version (either e-mailed or provided on diskette/CD) to ITS by the LOC deadline.

Question 11: At the vendor conference, it was mentioned that core products could not be proposed on the ICT/STEM EPL not already proposed by us on the Micro. We plan to add two partnerships on the Micro 6-month update due April 2nd. Will you reference that 6-month update or will that policy reflect the current Micro?

Response: At the Micro EPL six month update, due April 2nd, ITS will allow reseller group changes. For the ICT/STEM EPL, Vendors will be allowed to propose products from manufacturers that they expect to be able to add April 2nd. However, if the Vendor is not approved for those new manufacturer groups,

ITS will have to pull the products proposed for that manufacturer from the ICT/STEM EPL.

Question 12: Product literature: Can we cut-and-paste specs to our response or do you want literature from the manufacturer? The latter can be a bit of a problem because sometimes it is hard to find a PDF brochure for the exact model you are looking for.

Response: **ITS would prefer product literature directly from the manufacturer, but if it is unavailable, send a link to the product specs or copy and paste the specs into a separate document.**

Question 13: After the ICT/STEM EPL prices are published I assume we are free to negotiate lower prices with schools who inquire.

Response: **Yes, but prices should be as competitive as possible in order to ensure your products are included in the ICT/STEM EPL.**

Question 14: Just something to mention to end users. We usually give passwords, configurations, policies, etc. to the school. We do sometimes have problems after the fact when teachers come behind and install software that is not part of the lab and not compatible with the lab and it causes problems. Rectifying problems like this we usually like to bill for. Same for situations when people make odd ball changes to DNS, etc.

Response: **If a Vendor has these concerns, the Vendor should be sure to thoroughly explain what is included when providing the final quotes to schools, outlining that anything beyond what was included will incur an additional charge.**

Question 15: During Thursday's meeting at MDE the subject came up about the scenario where two adjacent labs share a single server as a cost saving measure. Would such an option be best proposed as one of our 4 server configurations? (For example, propose three single servers to support single labs, and then a four server intended to support two labs and noted accordingly.)

Response: **Yes.**

Question 16: For our multiple configurations (up to four), do I copy and paste the table for the appropriate category and number 1, 2, 3, etc.?

Response: **Yes, for each item, student desktops, teacher notebooks, printers, etc., copy and paste the appropriate table up to four times and fill each table out completely.**

Question 17: In the case that a school is just real particular about something like a server and they want a configuration that no one is offering, can they request a special

configuration? Example, the school wants HP xyz server, rack mount, and particular tape drive, etc. Can they go outside the ICT/STEM EPL offerings and request a quote for a specific configuration?

Response: Yes, but, the schools must still follow public purchasing laws. It is to a school's advantage to use the ICT/STEM EPL because there is no purchasing limit. However, if a school needs a product not available on the ICT/STEM EPL, that school has several choices:

From \$0.01 to \$5,000.00 – Schools may make any purchases from any vendors for their ICT/STEM labs if all of the items they need total less than \$5,000.00

From \$5,000.01 - \$25,000.00 – Schools may make purchases for their ICT/STEM labs after getting two quotes if all of the items they need total less than \$25,000.00.

Above \$25,000.00 – Schools may advertise and receive competitive bids or use an ITS procurement mechanism already in place, such as the Micro or LAN EPLs. Schools may purchase a special item or product configuration from the Micro and LAN EPLs if it is available and does not exceed each EPL's limit of \$100,000.00.

Question 18: Our company has noted several installation issues in the phase I and II years of the Redesign Project. We would like to offer them to the schools and other vendors to consider.

Response: Thank you. ITS went over these suggestions at the Vendor Conference on March 19, 2009, and is providing a copy of these suggestions on page 6.

LOC responses are due Monday, April 6, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time).

If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Jane Woosley at 601-359-2081 or via email at Jane.Woosley@its.ms.gov .

cc: File 38019

Suggestions for ICT/STEM Labs

1. Purchase CD Space – or other daemon emulation program that would eliminate the necessity or need for separate CDs for programs such as Sim City.

Note from ITS: Sim City is not in the ICT I, II, or STEM specs, and therefore not a required purchase, though some schools may be using it.

2. Firewall Labs – Place all labs (servers & computers) behind a firewall which would allow the labs to be on DHCP not static IP's. More flexibility and security.
3. Moodle – Installed during lab setup, this FREE software would allow presentations similar to Blackboard to be run from the local server.
4. TI Software – TI-Nspire can be reloaded only twice before calling TI and going to the trouble and time consuming task of gaining permission to reload / Ghost it again.