

LOC Questions and Clarifications Memorandum

To: Solicited Vendors for Letter of Configuration (LOC) Number 45308, dated May 5, 2020, for the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS)

From: Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D.

Date: May 21, 2020

Subject: Responses to Questions Submitted and Clarifications to Specifications

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LOC Number 45308 is hereby amended as follows:

1) Item 5.4.4 is being modified to read:

Vendor must propose the cost for purchasing additional FICON channels, OSA cards, CPU upgrades, and zIIP, ~~zAAP~~, and IFL processors in the future. The Vendor must guarantee these prices for up to 12 months.

2) Pages 15 through 20 of the original LOC is hereby deleted and replaced with Attachment A-1, Revised *Cost Information Form*, and is attached to this Memorandum.

Vendor must include in their proposal a response to each amended requirement as listed above. Vendor must respond using the same terminology as provided in the original requirements.

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: Attachment A - On April 15, IBM announced a replacement product for the IBM z14 ZR1 (3907-ZR1), would the State entertain a proposal for the current technology (IBM z15 T02 – 8562-T02) configured to offer the same capacity settings? If the State chose the current product (z15 T02) the State could avoid IBM's withdrawal-of-marketing issues that will probably come enforce in the next 18 to 24 months for the z14 ZR1.

Response: ITS wishes to purchase the z14 ZR1 Model as stated.

Question 2: Attachment A - The configurations for both the Eastwood and Starkville facilities as detailed in the RFP show a quantity 1 of Feature Codes 0422 and 0426 (OSA Ports), best practices would recommend that there be no single point of failure, we would recommend the state revise these quantities of these Feature Codes to 2 each.

Response: **ITS wishes to keep the configuration as stated with 1 Feature Code 0422 and 1 Feature Code 0426.**

Question 3: Section 4.17 – Cloud Hosted Solutions - We have extensive experience providing mainframe products and services to both the private and public sector. Many of our clients are looking to eliminate capital expenses (CAPEX) when they are required to refresh their mainframe systems. They have asked and we have provided alternatives that allow them to use operating expense (OPEX) funds to upgrade/refresh their mainframe systems. These alternatives have many names in the industry, Private Cloud, Capacity Services, Platform/Infrastructure as a Service. As Cost appears to be the evaluation factor the State will use in selecting the awardee for this RFP, would the State consider an OPEX alternative? This approach would allow the State to treat the mainframes technology requirements as an operating expense, also giving the state the flexibility to increase or decrease the capacity of the system as requirements change.

Response: **The State does not wish to consider a cloud hosted OPEX alternative at this time.**

Question 4: Section 5.41 - Vendor must include all cabling and any other required components. Does the State require the vendor to include a switch for the HMC-SE LAN?

Response: **The State only requires the vendor to include a switch for the HMC-SE LAN if the existing z114 HMC-SE LAN switch is not compatible. The part number for the switch in question is SMCGS16. Refer to Clarification Number 2 above.**

Question 5: Section 5.4.4 – IBM removed the z Application Assist Processor (zAAP) from marketing some time ago, it is no longer available. The State may want to consider removing it for this RFP.

Response: **Please refer to Clarification Numbers 1 and 2 above.**

Question 6: Section 6.1 – Refers to the “installation of peripherals”, what specific peripherals are requiring installation please?

Response: **The peripherals in question would be for the Hardware Management Console (HMC).**

Question 7: Section 10.1 – Refers to the requirement to “Identify additional components needed”, does the state intend for the Contractor to provide components as needed, if so, how will that be accomplished contractually?

Response: **Vendor needs to identify any components necessary that have not been included in the LOC to complete the installation configuration and make it**

fully operational. Any future needed components will be procured as separate purchases at that time.

Question 8: Attachment A - The configuration for Eastwood shows line item "Business recovery system tests per calendar year." That machine is not a CBU machine, so that feature is not applicable.

Response: ITS has removed this line item. Please refer to Clarification Number 2 above.

Question 9: Attachment A - The configuration for Starkville shows feature code 6817, CBU years ordered, as 5. However, line AATHWMA shows 48 months maintenance. Do you want 4 or 5 years of hardware maintenance?

Response: The State's understanding is the equipment ships with a one year warranty, so the State requests 4 years of maintenance to create a 5-year life cycle.

Question 10: Addressing the optional items section in the LOC, please provide clarification for the following items:

a) Memory increment upgrade – Does this mean upgrading to the next increment? A specific increment would be required to price as there are different prices for below and above 128GB total.

Response: Yes. Please quote the next increment equal to 32GB. Refer to Clarification Number 2 above.

b) FICON (Fiber connection) channel – How many cards would the State potentially add? Which feature code? Pricing is different for a standalone order, compared to a purchase with MIPs.

Response: The State would potentially add one card with feature code 0427.

c) OSA (Open Systems Adapter) card – How many cards would the State potentially add? Which feature code? Pricing is different for a standalone order, compared to a purchase with MIPs.

Response: The State would potentially add one card with feature code 0422 and one card with feature code 0426.

d) CPU upgrade – To what cap setting is the State looking to upgrade? C02? B03? Other?

Response: The State may possibly upgrade to Model C02.

e) System z Integrated Information Processor (zIIP) processor – How many would the State potentially add?

Response: One.

f) IBM System z Application Assist Processor (zAAP) processor – Please clarify. zAAPs are no longer offered because zAAP workload now runs on zIIPs.

Response: Please refer to Clarification Numbers 1 and 2 above.

g) IBM Integrated Facility for Linux (IFL) processor – How many would the State potentially add?

Response: One.

Question 11: The State requests installation. IBM provides installation of the requested product. Are implementation services desired? If so, should the advised implementation services be proposed as an hourly rate or a fixed cost?

Response: Per Item 6.1, “Vendor must provide not-to-exceed cost for installation.” Vendor may propose an hourly rate or a fixed cost. Refer to Clarification Number 2 above.

Question 12: In Attachment A, Cost Information Form, “Trade in allowance for IBM Z114 Mainframe” is requested. Would St of MS be able to sell the existing IBM 2818-M10 zEnterprise z114 server opposed to sending it to the state warehouse?

Response: The State wishes to trade-in the IBM Z114 Mainframe.

LOC responses are due Thursday, May 28, 2020, 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 Jill Chastant at 601-432-8214 or via email at Jill.Chastant@its.ms.gov.

cc: ITS Project File Number 45308

Attachment: Attachment A-1 Revised Cost Information Form – LOC Number 45308