



# CITY OF HOUSTON

Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department  
Strategic Purchasing Division

**Annise D. Parker**

Mayor

Calvin D. Wells, Deputy Director  
City Purchasing Agent  
P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

F. 832.393.8755  
<https://purchasing.houstontx.gov>

May 16, 2013

**Subject:** Letter of Clarification No. 8 to Invitation to Bid No. S12-C24537 Remove, Furnish and Install Gate Valves and Associated Equipment for the Public Works & Engineering Department

**To:** All Prospective Bidders:

This letter of Clarification is being issued for the following reasons:

- **To revise the above referenced solicitation as follows:**

- 1) **NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The bid opening time and date will be at **10:30 AM., May 23, 2013.**

- 2) **In solicitation Section A, Offer, add the following:**

**NO CONTACT PERIOD:**

Neither bidder(s) nor any person acting on bidder(s)'s behalf shall attempt to influence the outcome of the award by the offer, presentation or promise gratuities, favors, or anything of value to any appointed or elected official or employee of the City of Houston, their families or staff members. All inquiries regarding the solicitation are to be directed to the designated City Representative identified on the first page of the solicitation. Upon issuance of the solicitation through the pre-award phase and up to the award, aside from bidder's formal response to the solicitation, communications publicly made during the official prebid conference, written requests for clarification during the period officially designated for such purpose by the City Representative, neither bidder(s) nor persons acting on their behalf shall communicate with any appointed or elected official or employee of the City of Houston, their families or staff through written or oral means in an attempt to persuade or influence the outcome of the award or to obtain or deliver information intended to or which could reasonably result in an advantage to any bidder. However, nothing in this paragraph shall prevent a bidder from making public statements to the City Council convened for a regularly scheduled session after the official selection has been made and placed on the City Council agenda for action.

- 2) **In solicitation Section B, Scope of Work/Specifications - Part I, remove in its entirety subsection 1.2 (Line Item No. 2), eccentric plug valves refurbish and installment.**

- 3) **The following are responses to questions or clarifications as it relates to the Lift Station Valve replacement project.**

1. **Question:** Will eccentric plug valves refurbish and installment remain a part of the project. .

**COH Answer:** No. Potential bidders should bid accordingly as the eccentric plug valves shall not be part of this work.

*Partnering to better serve Houston*

**Council Members:** Helena Brown Jerry Davis Ellen R. Cohen Wanda Adams Mike Sullivan Al Hoang Oliver Pennington Edward Gonzalez James G. Rodriguez Stephen C. Costello Andrew C. Burks, Jr. Melissa Noriega C.O. "Brad" Bradford Jack Christie Larry Green Mike Laster **Controller: Ronald C. Green**

Letter of Clarification No. 8 to Invitation to Bid No. S12-C24537 Remove, Furnish and Install Gate Valves and Associated Equipment for the Public Works & Engineering Department

2. **Question:** Does the City require new bolts, nuts, and gaskets for the pump connections? If so, what type...304 SS? Please clarify in addendum

**COH Answer: YES, Carbon Steel**

3. **Question:** Please identify if new air lines to the pneumatic actuated valves are expected to be by the Contractor.

**COH Answer: Pneumatic actuators are not part of this bid. The only lines are the Hydraulic lines and they need to be changed from the wall to the actuators.**

4. **Question:** Please identify in Addendum that the contractor will receive monthly progress payments throughout the duration of this project.

**COH Answer: The City can issue progress payments to the awarded Contractor.**

5. **Question:** Please confirm in addendum that there shall be no retainage withheld from monthly progress payment.

**COH Answer:** It is not the City's intent to withhold retainage from progress payments. However; the contractor's request for payment must be submitted itemized as to the labor/service performed and/or the equipment supplied. The itemized request must also be verified/approved by authorized City of Houston personnel prior to payment.

6. **Question:** Please clarify that the City of Houston will allow for payment to the Contractor for stored materials. It is typical in other City contracts that the contractor is paid 85% of stored materials until they are installed.

**COH Answer:** It is the City's option to pay the awarded contractor up to 85% for the stored materials until said materials are installed.

7. **Question:** Clarify that the 3% MWDBE Goal is just that, a goal. LEM will make a good faith effort to adhere to that 3% goal, but do not want to be overlooked if we are the low bidder if that goal is not met. Is the City's selection of the successful contractor based upon pricing, or satisfaction of the goal?

**COH Answer:** The Public Works & Engineering Department's Small Business Group and the Mayor's Office of Business Opportunity have determined this project lends itself to MWDBE subcontracting opportunity and have assessed/assigned a 3% subcontracting participation "goal". Note: A goal-oriented Award means any City award for the supply of goods or non-professional services of approximately \$100,000.00 or more. While it is the City's intent to award low bid meeting specifications, the award selection/criteria will include, but is not limited to the bidder's M/WDBE subcontracting capability/intent and/or good faith efforts.

8. **Question:** Please clarify that new Valves are to be painted with a finished coat in the field when installed, and please select a system desired.

**COH Answer:** The new valves are to be painted with a finished coat in the field when installed.

9. **Question:** Is the piping to be finish coated?

**COH Answer: YES**

10. **Question:** Please clarify that it will be the Contractor's responsibility to divert water flow and at all times have the lift station in continuous use while replacing the suction valves.

**COH Answer: YES**

Letter of Clarification No. 8 to Invitation to Bid No. S12-C24537 Remove, Furnish and Install Gate Valves and Associated Equipment for the Public Works & Engineering Department

11. **Question:** Clarify that the City cannot isolate water from the main headers and it is the contractor's responsibility to install a series of stop logs into the Headworks influent channel to stop backflow onto the work areas while replacing the discharge knife gate valves.

**COH Answer: YES**

12. **Question:** Please clarify that the Stops logs are by the contractor, or will the City provide them?

**COH Answer:** YES, Stop logs should be provided by the contractor.

13. **Question:** Please clarify if Flanged Coupling adapters are acceptable to install on the piping for all valve replacements. The current piping is straight piped, and the successful contractor will need access to fit the new valves. A Flanged coupling adapter will provide that flexibility. Please advise is allowable.

**COH Answer: No we need to have Straight pipe due to many couplings issues.**

14. **Question:** Please clarify that it is the contractor's responsibility to remove existing obstruction from their path to get to the work areas, i.e., HVAC ductwork, grating, etc.

**COH Answer: YES, that it is the contractor's responsibility to remove existing obstruction from their path to get to the work areas, i.e., HVAC ductwork, grating, etc. Also to reinstalled back to the Original Operation.**

15. **Question:** Clarify that the Contractor can utilize the existing monorail crane in the pump stations, and are they operable? What are their capacities

COH Answer: YES, the Contractor can utilize the existing monorail crane in the pump stations. The monorail crane capacity it 15 Tons.

16. **Question:** Clarify in addendum that the Contractor is only allowed to shut down one (1) pump at a time only.

COH Answer: YES, the Contractor is only allowed to shut down one (1) pump at a time only.

17. **Question:** Please clarify that a 7-day run test is required before the contractor is allowed to move to another valve.

COH Answer: YES, a 7-day run test is required before the contractor is allowed to move to another valve.

18. **Question:** Please identify the City's interpretation of the warranty for the valves. All that is being replaced are the valves only; however, the VSP and Constant speed pump operation is solely depended upon the operation of the refurbished plug valve. How does a bidding contractor differentiate between the two complementing pieces of equipment? Please advise how we are to structure our bid in that respect.

COH Answer: The awarded contractor shall provide a one year warranty for the valves. The system as a whole shall be tested and functional as it is at the present.

19. **Question:** Please clarify in addendum that any and all electrical coordination and terminations required are by the contractor with the exception of the standard lock out and tag out by the City.

COH Answer: YES

Letter of Clarification No. 8 to Invitation to Bid No. S12-C24537 Remove, Furnish and Install Gate Valves and Associated Equipment for the Public Works & Engineering Department

20. **Question:** Please identify if there are requirements from the City's programming integrator for this work. Please clarify a scope of work for this portion of the contract.

COH Answer: There are no COH programming integrator requirements.

21. **Question:** Please identify the programmable logic requirements within the plug valves and the existing PLC. Who is the City's choice for verification of these output signals when the plug valve is replaced, re-installed, and started up?

COH Answer: Plug valves are taken out of this contract. Only the gate valves and their actuators are part of this contract.

22. **Question:** Please identify that warranty shall begin once the City accepts the pumping unit after the successful completion of the 7-day test

COH Answer: YES

23. **Question:** Please identify whom will be the inspector for the project.

COH Answer: PLANT PROCESS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS.

24. **Question:** Please modify the days allotted for this project. There is not enough time to complete this project in the 180 day time frame. There should be a minimum 1000 days to complete this work for all valves. Please consider extending this time.

COH Answer: The estimated completion time frame for all 16 gate valves and their actuators is a minimum of 540 days.

25. **Question:** Please modify the bid date. LEM does not feel that the current bid date of April 18<sup>th</sup> is sufficient enough time to gather the information needed to create a good estimate for the Owner. LEM feels that extending the bid two (2) weeks is reasonable.

**COH Answer: Bid due date has been extended to May 23, 2013**

When issued, Letter(s) of Clarification shall automatically become a part of the solicitation documents and shall supersede any previous specification(s) and/or provision(s) in conflict with the Letter(s) of Clarification. All revisions and answers incorporated into the Letter(s) of Clarification are collaboratively from both the Strategic Purchasing Division and the applicable City Department(s). It is the responsibility of the bidder/respondent to ensure that it has obtained all such letter(s). By submitting a bid on this project, bidders/respondents shall be deemed to have received all Letter(s) of Clarification and to have incorporated them into this solicitation and resulting bid.

Furthermore, it is the responsibility of each Contractor to obtain any previous Letter of Clarification associated with this solicitation.

*Martin L. King*

Martin L. King  
Senior Staff Analyst  
832-393-8705