



CITY OF HOUSTON
Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department
Strategic Purchasing Division

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September 15, 2010

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SUBJECT: Letter of Clarification 2

REFERENCE: Request for Qualifications No.: S46- Q23684 for Wireless Network and Community Access Location Implementation and Maintenance

TO: All Prospective Bidders:

This Letter of Clarification is issued for the following reasons:

- **To response to vendor questions as follows:**

1	Vendor Question	Are the five pages inclusive of the Exhibits (I-X)?
	COH Response	No
2	Vendor Question	Pricing Form / Fee Schedule (Exhibit III) (Submit in a seal Envelope) is not legal for a REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS. Please remove this requirement or reissue this RFQ as an RFProposal.
	COH Response	The requirement for pricing - Pricing Form / Fee Schedule (Exhibit III) (Submit in a seal Envelope) has been removed in its entirety.
3	Vendor Question	APPENDIX A calls for costs. RFQ do not include cost. Please remove this requirement or reissue this RFQ as an RFProposal.
	COH Response	Please refer to our response to Question 2.
4	Vendor Question	EXHIBIT III calls for pricing. RFQ do not include pricing. Please remove this requirement or reissue this RFQ as an RF Proposal.
	COH Response	Please refer to our response to Question 2.
5	Vendor Question	Page 12 shows an estimated Notification of Intent on 10/29/10. Why is this date estimated? Please explain.
	COH Response	There are various events that might delay or speed up any solitication process thus some dates are indicated as estimates.
6	Vendor Question	APPENDIX A states information that will exceed five pages. Can this information be included in an Appendix to the proposal exclusive of the five pages?
	COH Response	No.

7	Vendor Question	Financial Statement and Dunn & Bradstreet Reports or Federal Tax Forms Filed for Past Two Years. What safeguards is the City deploying for the requested information. Will this information be available to the public due to Freedom of Information Act? Please give a detail explanation for the request of this information.
	COH Response	Financial data is used by the City to determine the respondents' financial stability. Please mark "Confidential" and if a Open Records request is submitted this information is reviewed by our Legal Department and is omitted or released in accordance to State Law.
8	Vendor Question	Title Page a cover page and is it included in the five pages?
	COH Response	No
9	Vendor Question	APPENDIX B section 1 states attachment specification drawings; however, the RFQ did not include the drawings. Please explain.
	COH Response	Please see attachment - CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline
10	Vendor Question	Letter of Transmittal to be forwarded on company letter head and is it included in the five pages?
	COH Response	No
11	Vendor Question	Are responses to sections 4.6, 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.6.3 included in the five pages? Can these sections be addressed in an APPENDIX?
	COH Response	Yes. The information in this section can be included as part of the vendor's history and/or track record.
12	Vendor Question	Is there an incumbent vendor that has this exact done this work for the city? If so, please provide the name and number of the company.
	COH Response	No
13	Vendor Question	Is the incumbent vendor (if any restricted in participation in this bid)?
	COH Response	No
14	Vendor Question	APPENDIX B section 8 states that only contractors reviewed and approved by CenterPOINT will be permitted to be used for operations and maintenance of the attachments. Is CenterPOINT on the bid selection committee? Are bidders restricted to only those that are approved by CenterPOINT? What equipment has been approved by CenterPOINT? Is this procurement only meant for CenterPOINT approved vendors? Please provide detail explanation.
	COH Response	CenterPoint is not a member of the selection committee. CenterPoint will review and approve any and all vendors, including sub-contractors that will interface with CenterPoint property. Please see attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline for more information.
15	Vendor Question	Is the project budgeted? If so how much?
	COH Response	Grant funds are approved and available for this project

16	Vendor Question	What are the engineering estimates for this project?
	COH Response	See attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline. Contractor is responsible for the appropriate and complete installation of equipment. Contractor is not responsible for propagation analysis.
17	Vendor Question	When will the final decision be made and by whom?
	COH Response	TBD. The evaluation committee will make a recommendation.
18	Vendor Question	Has a propagation coverage contour analysis been completed by the city? If so, please provide the maps with the designated dB levels.
	COH Response	The City has completed citywide propagation analysis for WiMAX including site surveys at each designated Wi-Fi AP location. Contractor is responsible for proper installation of equipment but not responsible for specific Wi-Fi coverage or propagation.
19	Vendor Question	Where are the basestation located? Please provide exact coordinates (LAT/LON).
	COH Response	See attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline. The WiMAX base station locations are a confidential component of the City critical infrastructure and knowledge of these locations are not necessary for contractor to effectively complete their work.
20	Vendor Question	What RF equipment has been selected? Please provide manufacturer's name and model numbers. Please provide all basestation and AP specifications.
	COH Response	See attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline.
21	Vendor Question	What is the manufacturer of the routers, switches, and ports? What security is needed? Please define security (physical / software, etc)?
	COH Response	See attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline. All routers located at CAL sites are industry standard 802.11g/n routers.
22	Vendor Question	Will the city split the award Option A and Option B to two different companies? What are the deployment periods of each option?
	COH Response	It is possible that project will be split between multiple suppliers.
23	Vendor Question	Will the city split the bid?
	COH Response	See response to question 22.
24	Vendor Question	Who is the contact at Center POINT Energy (please provide name/number/ title)?
	COH Response	All communication shall remain between CenterPoint and the City. This information is not necessary for contractor to effectively complete their work.
25	Vendor Question	APPENDIX D requires reference letter. Can names and numbers be used in lieu of reference letter? Are these letters inclusive of the five pages? Page 24 of the RFQ is a form for references. Please clarify.

	COH Response	Please provide a reference letter, numbers cannot be used in lieu of a reference letter. Reference letters are not included as part of the five pages.
26	Vendor Question	Under The Texas Board of Professional Engineer's Practicing Act (Chapter 1001. 053 and 1001.407) this procurement requires a professional engineering firm to be used on the project. Since this procurement involved by electrical and mechanical / structural engineering, please revise RFQ to include "only licensed engineering companies to participate".
	COH Response	This solicitation is a Request for Qualifications.. Please review the scope of work and provide a response describing your qualifications.
27	Vendor Question	Will the contractor have to provide red line drawings after completion of the project?
	COH Response	No
28	Vendor Question	Who is the City's quality inspector for this project (provide name and number)?
	COH Response	N/A
29	Vendor Question	Does the city have attachment rights agreement from Center Point Energy? If so, can a copy be available?
	COH Response	Yes. Relevant components of the agreement have been included in the attachment entitled CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline.
30	Vendor Question	APPENDIX D requires additional forms. Are these forms exclusive of the five page requirement?
	COH Response	No
31	Vendor Question	What is Center Point Energy's engineering specifications for installation? Please provide copy.
	COH Response	Please see attachment - CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline
32	Vendor Question	Are there sites that have been completed by another or incumbent vendor? If so, please provide the exact physical address and coordinates (LAN?LON).
	COH Response	Additional sites have been completed by the City. A map of these WiFi zones can be accessed from the WeCAN website http://www.wecanhouston.org/Services
33	Vendor Question	A Master Electrician must pull the permits. Will a register Texas PE be required sign /seal and date the submittals to the city permit office?
	COH Response	Yes
34	Vendor Question	Can an APPENDIX be provided to supply additional information? Will the APPENDIX be counted in the initial five pages?
	COH Response	Appendices cannot be used to supply additional information.
35	Vendor Question	1) Is it mandatory that prospective bidders attend the bidder's conference tomorrow 08/27/2010?
	COH Response	No
36	Vendor Question	2) Will the additional radios being deployed be Tropos?

	COH Response	No
37	Vendor Question	Could you please provide any information regarding the contract value and duration?
	COH Response	This budget for this project is \$300-400K. The project will last 12-18 months.
38	Vendor Question	Also, is there an incumbent vendor providing similar services or is this a new requirement? If there is an incumbent, can you please give me their name
	COH Response	This project will require a new installation.
39	Vendor Question	Can the five page format requirement be extended to additional pages or can be include an appendix to the our submittal with additional information?
	COH Response	No
40	Vendor Question	May we get a list of the brands & model of all hardware & components
	COH Response	See attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline. All routers located at CAL sites are industry standard 802.11g/n routers.
41	Vendor Question	Are there any requisite certifications associated with this hardware
	COH Response	No
42	Vendor Question	Can we get a geographic diagram and exact address list of all pending radio & CAL locations
	COH Response	A map of currently installed WiFi zones can be accessed from the WeCAN website http://www.wecanhouston.org/Services
43	Vendor Question	Are there any addition certifications required by CenterPoint Energy, outside of OSHA & Insurance to work on their poles
	COH Response	Yes. Please see attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline.
44	Vendor Question	What are COH wireless security protocols
	COH Response	WiFi is a public open network. Users can use VPN software to secure their access.
45	Vendor Question	What is the timeline for completing this project, after the 01/03/2010 start date
	COH Response	The project will run approximately 12 months
46	Vendor Question	Will the City of Houston designate the pole locations? If not how will pole locations be determined?
	COH Response	Yes
47	Vendor Question	What are the QA testing requirement for CAL's existing LAN?
	COH Response	The vendor will ensure that all devices which remain on the existing network are being assigned the correct private IP and accessing the internet through the appropriate public network

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. It is the responsibility of the proposers to ensure that they have obtained any such previous Letter(s) associated with this solicitation. By submitting a proposal on this project, proposers shall be deemed to have received all Letter(s) of Clarification and to have incorporated them into this solicitation.

If you have any questions or if further clarification is needed regarding this RFP, please contact Eric Alexander at 832-393-8704.

Sincerely,

Eric Alexander

Senior Procurement Specialist

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cc: Q23684 Solicitation File

End of Letter of Clarification 2