



**CITY OF HOUSTON**  
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**Strategic Purchasing Division**

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September 22, 2010

**SUBJECT:            Letter of Clarification 4**

**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	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. Based on the City's recommendation, 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.
2	Vendor Question	Who is the Digital Payment Technology, Inc? What role do they have in this procurement? What hardware and software is used? Where are the designated areas? Please provide completion specifications of the DPT hardware and software and a map of the designated areas.
	COH Response	Installation of wireless radios for Parking Management will be coordinated with the Parking Management Department. Please see Letter of Clarification.
3	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.
4	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	Numbers cannot be used in lieu of a reference letter. Reference letters are not included as part of the five pages. The Reference Form must also be completed.
5	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
6	Vendor Question	Will the contractor have to provide red line drawings after completion of the project?
	COH Response	No
7	Vendor Question	Who is the City's quality inspector for this project (provide name and number)?
	COH Response	Not Applicable for this RFQ
8	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.
9	Vendor Question	APPENDIX D requires additional forms. Are these forms exclusive of the five page requirement?
	COH Response	No
10	Vendor Question	What is Center Point Energy's engineering specifications for installation? Please provide copy.
	COH Response	Please see attachment - CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline
11	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 <a href="http://www.wecanhouston.org/Services">http://www.wecanhouston.org/Services</a>
12	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
13	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.
14	Vendor Question	1) Is it mandatory that prospective bidders attend the bidder's conference tomorrow 08/27/2010?
	COH Response	No
15	Vendor Question	2) Will the additional radios being deployed be Tropos?
	COH Response	No
16	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 approximately 18 months
17	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.
18	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
19	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.
20	Vendor Question	Are there any requisite certifications associated with this hardware
	COH Response	No
21	Vendor Question	If yes, to the above question, can the City make arrangements to have training available to interesting vendors
	COH Response	
22	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 <a href="http://www.wecanhouston.org/Services">http://www.wecanhouston.org/Services</a>
23	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.
24	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.
25	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
26	Vendor Question	Will the City of Houston designate the pole locations? If not how will pole locations be determined?
	COH Response	Yes
27	Vendor Question	What are the total number of devices to be installed in each site location/area/category?
	COH Response	Digital Inclusion — Each community will have up to 25 WiFi zones for a total of 250. Parking Management - A total of 100 WiFi zones.  Each zone will be comprised of 1 WiFi radio and 1 backhaul device.
28	Vendor Question	Is the Field Test to be performed pre-deployment, post deployment or both?
	COH Response	Digital Inclusion (Post-Test) — WiFi connectivity after installation and provide back haul quality Parking Management (Pre-Test and Post-Test)
29	Vendor Question	Is the Field Test just an operational check at each location, a wireless coverage survey or both?
	COH Response	Digital Inclusion — Operational Check  Parking Management — Requires a WiFi survey at pay station
30	Vendor Question	What information will be required at a minimum in the coverage analysis report?
	COH Response	Digital Inclusion — WiMAX backhaul signal level and operational test of WiFi to the internet

		Parking Management — Backhaul signal level and operational test at pay stations
31	Vendor Question	Are there preferred software tools for the field test and coverage analysis report?
	COH Response	No
32	Vendor Question	What wireless technology will the paystation use for wireless connectivity WiMax, WiFi or 3g?
	COH Response	WiFi
33	Vendor Question	Will the contractor be responsible for remediation of coverage/connectivity if the paystation is unable to communicate with the wireless network?
	COH Response	Yes. Contractor will provide Pre and Post test results.
34	Vendor Question	What criteria will be used to determine that 2.1.2 Task 3 is complete? (Task 3: Coordinate with Digital Payment Technology to ensure coverage and connectivity of electronic parking systems within designated areas.)
	COH Response	Acceptable SNR level at pay stations
35	Vendor Question	If 2.1.2 Task 3 meets the criteria for completion and a follow-up for a problem is required can we charge for a service call?
	COH Response	Vendors will be required to provide a service warranty on their work only. The length of the warranty will be determined between the City of Houston and the awarded vendor(s). Maintenance contracts are not included in this solicitation
36	Vendor Question	What is the duration of the maintenance service required?
	COH Response	The length of the warranty will be determined between the City of Houston and the awarded vendor(s). Maintenance contracts are not included in this solicitation
37	Vendor Question	Are SLA's required with the maintenance service?
	COH Response	Maintenance contracts are not included in this solicitation
38	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
39	Vendor Question	It is understood that City of Houston will purchase the equipment and materials. What is the manufacturer's and model numbers of the products selected by City of Houston to be installed?
	COH Response	See attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline.
40	Vendor Question	For the equipment and materials; Is there a program or housing requirement for the equipment and materials?
	COH Response	See attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline.
41	Vendor Question	Would City of Houston provide an Option A - Utility Pole installation diagram with all the equipment, power and connectivity requirements/ diagram to assist with proper installation cost scope?
	COH Response	See attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline.
42	Vendor Question	Will the successful offeror be required to establish LAN cabling at some of the CALs to include wiring and related equipment? If so, can the City provide the number and list of CAL locations that require this service?

	COH Response	Yes. All CAL sites will require some wiring. CAL sites are currently being identified.
43	Vendor Question	Can the City provide the type of hardware that they plan to purchase for installation in both Option A and Option B?
	COH Response	See attached CenterPoint Pole Attachment Guideline. All routers located at CAL sites are industry standard 802.11g/n routers.
44	Vendor Question	Would the City consider an option for the successful vendor to be involved in the selection and procurement of the hardware?
	COH Response	No. Contractor is only responsible for the appropriate and complete installation of equipment.

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,

*DA*

*Eric Alexander*

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cc: Q23684 Solicitation File

**End of Letter of Clarification 4**