



CITY OF HOUSTON

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Date: December 8, 2011

Subject: Letter of Clarification No. 2
Decontamination Shelters for the Houston Emergency Center

Reference: Invitation to Bid (ITB) No.: S48-S24141

To All Prospective Bidders:

This Letter of Clarification is issued for the following reasons:

- To revise the above referenced solicitation as follows:
 1. At the City's Electronic website, the total Estimated Expenditures and Line Item No. 1 quantity have been **changed**.
 2. In Section B, page 5 of 17, Item 2.0, **delete**: "useable floor area of at least 310 square feet".
 3. In Section B, **replace** pages 6 of 17 and 7 of 17 with attached pages 6 of 17 and 7 of 17 marked revised December 8, 2011.
 4. In Section B, page 12 of 17, Item 17.2 has been **changed** to read as follows:

"The equipment demonstrated and field tested must be of the exact same 'type' and 'model' that the bidder intends to supply to the City under this contract. The demonstration unit, however, will not be acceptable for delivery as one of the 'new' purchased systems. All shelter systems purchased shall be 'new' and 'unused' and any demonstration and field testing would render the system 'used'".
- To answer the following questions:
 1. Question: *"Item 2.0 Size - Is this size then a guideline for the approximate size desired in a 3 line shower system? We ask since the size desired 14 x 21 FT equals 294 sq. ft. and yet you then ask for 310 sq. ft. of space? "*

Answer: "No."
 2. Question: *"Item 3.1 - An equal of highly chemical resistant PVC that meets and exceeds this MIL Spec then would be acceptable, correct?"*

Answer: "No."

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3. Question: *"Item 3.3 - Why would you want the canopy over the frame - That means the air berms will absorb every chemical agent the unit is used for in decon and will have to be deconned and cleaned itself creating a time consuming mess? The FSI offered unit is permanently attached and integral to the unit but can be removed if needed by the end user for cleaning and/or repair and the berms are not exposed so cleaning of them after every use is not required."*

Answer: "As specified in Section B, page 5 of 17, Item 3.3, the shelter canopy shall be externally permanently attached to the frame."

4. Question: *"Items 3.6 and 3.7 - Should this not be a minimum spec requirement - That is better and heavier fabric that meets the weight of the unit as desired should also be acceptable?"*

Answer: "No."

5. Question: *Item 5.1.1 - The "front" and "rear" door shall have a removable "end-panel" to facilitate connection to another like shelter system. FSI offers attached yet removable tent like attachments with floor pieces on each end to allow for this connection end to end to other units - we assume this is satisfactory?*

Answer: "Yes."

6. Question: *"Item 5.1.2 - FSI offered units have 3 roll up man doors per end - we trust this is ok?"*

Answer: "Yes. Reference attached page 6 of 17, marked revised December 8, 2011."

7. Question: *"Items 5.2.4, 5.2.5 and 5.2.6 - We are surprised there is no mention of a shower system that meets and exceeds the ANSI # 113 portable HAZMAT decon shower standard? All FSI decon showers meet this standard."*

Answer: "As specified in Section B, page 6 of 17, Items 5.2.4, 5.2.5 and 5.2.6, the interior shall be designed with a pre-plumbed hose system with individually plumbed decon and rinse hoses. This system will not be required to meet a certain industry standard. It should be of sufficient quality to ensure its functionality for the intended use."

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8. Question: *"Items 5.3.1, 5.3.3 and 5.3.4 - So how many total utility ports are needed - 12? Then are there 4 - 24" laundry ports?"*

Answer: "Reference attached page 6 of 17, marked revised December 8, 2011."

9. Question: *"Item 7.0 - FSI meets and exceeds with unique Velcro safety handles in event end users are trying to carry the bag wrongly or upside down with locking closure straps - can we trust this is ok?"*

Answer: "Yes."

10. Question: *"Item 9.0 - FSI offers this at no charge for one such training period at a mutually agreeable time. We trust this is ok?"*

Answer: "No. Reference attached page 7 of 17, marked revised December 8, 2011."

- Due to the aforementioned change(s) to the e-bidding items you may need to edit your bid. To do so, please select the "Bid Number" and proceed accordingly.

This Letter of Clarification will be considered part of the solicitation referenced on the first page of this document.

Furthermore, it is the responsibility of each BIDDER to obtain any previous Letter(s) of Clarification associated with this solicitation.



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5.0 SHELTER DESIGN AND LAY-OUT

5.1 Doors

- 5.1.1 The "front" and "rear" door shall have a removable "end-panel" to facilitate connection to another like shelter system.
- 5.1.2 Each end-panel connector door shall have two roll-up type man-doors. This shelter "connection" feature will enable significant expansion of the covered floor area of the System during an actual emergency operation where other agencies may respond. The addition of another roll-up man door is acceptable; however, with a specified width of 14 feet, care must be taken to ensure that all three (3) doors shall be wide enough to cover the intended uses. E.g. the center door shall be of sufficient width to allow for the exit of a non-ambulatory patient on a litter with three (3) litter carriers using Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SBCA) on each side and the additional two doors shall be wide enough for ambulatory lanes."

5.2 Interior

- 5.2.1 The interior of the shelter shall be split into three (3) corridors with the use of removable dividers for "left-right" ambulatory operation.
- 5.2.2 The center corridor shall be designed for a non-ambulatory roller system.
- 5.2.3 These dividers shall be pre-installed and deployed with the shelter, yet easily removed.
- 5.2.4 The interior shall be designed with a pre-plumbed hose system with individually plumbed decon and rinse hoses.
- 5.2.5 Each corridor shall be equipped with a three (3) step stall and multiple full body fixed spray heads.
- 5.2.6 The center corridor shall have a three (3) step stall and handheld water sprayers on a recoil hose for decon and Rinse.
- 5.2.7 All corridors of the Shelter shall be equipped with a three-step shower stall providing ample room for simultaneous undress, decon, rinse and redress operation for each corridor.

5.3 Exterior

- 5.3.1 The Shelter Canopy shall have a total of twelve (12) utility ports with closures, consisting of:
 - i) Eight (8) 12" diameter utility ports, four (4) on each side, evenly spaced on both sides of the shelter. Each port shall expand to accommodate up to 12" diameter ducting from heaters, air scrubbers or other equipment.
 - ii) Four (4) 24" diameter laundry ports, one (1) on each side of the front and rear entrances, evenly spaced. The laundry ports can be closed by means of a Velcro attached cover.

5.4 Floor

- 5.4.1 The shelter floor shall be a nylon reinforced vinyl material, or equal.
- 5.4.2 The floor shall be pre-assembled and deploy with the shelter.
- 5.4.3 The floor shall be able to be quickly detached by means of a "speed lace" or "Velcro" method.
- 5.4.4 Integrated into the floor shall be an inflatable berm that will allow all contaminated liquids to be contained within the shelter.
- 5.4.5 The berm shall be designed to be inflated simultaneously with the shelter.
- 5.4.6 The entrance and exit of the shelter the berm is to be a high visible color in order to avoid a trip hazard.

5.0 SHELTER DESIGN AND LAY-OUT (CONTINUED)

5.5 Anchoring

- 5.5.1 A minimum of ten (10) ground anchor points along the base structure and four (4) roof anchor points shall be provided.
- 5.5.2 The shelter shall be capable to withstand a uniform (snow) load of at least 600 pounds (at normal operating pressure of 3 PSI) and a sustained wind load (with proper anchoring) of at least 60 MPH.

6.0 INFLATION ACCESSORIES

- 6.1 A 110 Volt electric inflator/deflator shall be included with a maximum required amperage draw of no more than 15 amps @ 110 Volt for use with a regular GFI outlet.
- 6.2 The inflator shall be light weight and include a high volume air hose to connect to the shelter frame.
- 6.3 An alternate means of deployment of the shelter system shall be provided with a high pressure hose for use with standard 4500 or 2216 PSI SCBA air-bottles. The hose shall be provided with a safety chain and snap-hook to attach the hose to the shelter frame.
- 6.4 A quick connect coupling with safety lock shall be provided on the shelter frame to accommodate the high pressure hose.

7.0 CARRYING CASE

A heavy duty carrying case with six (6) handles and adjustable straps with locking buckles shall be provided. The handles should not break off or pull away from the carrying case when in use.

8.0 OTHER ACCESSORIES

A field repair/maintenance kit with one replacement inflate-deflate valve shall be provided.

9.0 TRAINING AND OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Each tent purchased shall require an "in-service" product training class at the time of the delivery to the City. The product training class shall consist of a complete set-up and inspection of the delivered item.

10.0 DEPLOYMENT

The successful bidder shall warrant that these minimum performance requirements are met.

- 10.1 The shelter shall be designed so that one (1) person can deploy the system in less than seven (7) minutes regardless of weather conditions.
- 10.2 To facilitate virtually automatic deployment, the shelter shall have an inflatable, large diameter, airpower deployed structure requiring no more than three (3) PSI to erect and maintain stability.
- 10.3 The low-pressure frame shall be a single chamber, closed system airframe that will not require constant inflation. The shelter shall be designed to remain standing with as little as one (1) PSI without the need for inflation.
- 10.4 The airframe quality shall be such that with proper deployment, it will remain deployed continuously without the need for re-inflation for at least two (2) days and nights, regardless of ambient temperature changes.
- 10.5 The shelter shall be capable of deploying within its own "foot-print", allowing the base structure to be anchored to the floor prior to deployment. This feature enables high wind deployment without the need of extra personnel.